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Trump says he needs to deal with Dem leaders to end shutdown

By CATHERINE LUCEY and LISA MASCARO, Associated Press
WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump acknowledged Sunday that weekend shutdown talks led by his vice president would not break an impasse, as newly empowered House Democrats planned to step up the pressure on Trump and Republican lawmakers to reopen the government. Heading to Camp David

for staff meetings, Trump showed no signs of budging on his demand for \$5.6 billion for a wall along the U.S.-Mexico border. Undercutting the staff-level talks, Trump declared that only he could make a deal with Democratic leaders — “in 20 minutes, if they want to.” Said Trump: “If they don't want to, it's going to go on for a long time.”

Continued on Page 3



BRIDGE OR WALL

President Donald Trump speaks on the South Lawn of the White House as he walks to Marine One, Sunday, Jan. 6, 2019, in Washington.

Associated Press.

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Louisiana town reels from loss of 5 children in fiery crash

By **REBECCA SANTANA**, Associated Press

MARKSVILLE, La. (AP) — It was supposed to be a fun, post-Christmas trip to Disney World for 14-year-old Jeremiah Warren and his friends from a church in this small Louisiana town — “clean fun” as Warren’s aunt described it. But then word came of a fiery crash on a Florida highway that killed seven people, including five children from this area traveling in a church van.

“We knew it had to be them,” said Warren’s aunt, Jacqueline Williams, sitting in the living room of her Marksville home. She’d just returned from church Sunday morning where she’d done the only thing she could: prayed.

“When they left you were looking for them to go have fun and enjoy themselves. No one expected anything like this to happen,” she said. The small town has been reeling since news spread that a church van from the Avoyelles House of Mercy traveling outside of Gainesville, Florida, was caught in a fiery crash involving two 18-wheelers Thursday. In addition to the five children in the church van, the two truck drivers were also killed in the acci-



Flames engulf vehicles after a fiery crash along Interstate 75, Thursday, Jan. 3, 2019, about a mile south of Alachua, near Gainesville, Fla.

dent. Officials said at least eight others were injured, some seriously.

Two vehicles traveling north — a tractor-trailer and a car — smashed into each other and then burst through a metal guardrail, slamming into another semitrailer and the southbound van carrying the children. Diesel fuel leaked, and the mass erupted into a fireball, the Florida Highway Patrol said.

A fifth car, unable to avoid the chaos, sped through and hit people who were thrown from the van, the highway patrol said.

In a statement posted on the United Pentecostal Church International’s Facebook page, Louisiana district superintendent Kevin Cox said a pregnant woman injured in the crash and her unborn child had been stabilized. Cox also

said church pastor Eric Descant’s 50-year-old wife, Karen, was injured and his granddaughter killed. Cox said a total of nine children and three adults were in the church van.

Authorities identified the dead children as Joel Cloud and Warren, both 14; Cara Descant, 13; Briana Descant, 10; and Cierra Bordelan, 9. The relationship between the Descant

girls and the pastor was not immediately available.

Williams described her nephew as an “easygoing” boy; Warren and Cloud were best friends, she said, who lived across the street from each other; two of the girls who were killed lived on either side of her nephew, she said.

Only about 5,500 people live in Marksville — the seat of Avoyelles Parish — about 165 miles (265 kilometers) north of New Orleans. The town’s small size brought a level of personal connection to the tragedy — many people knew the victims’ families personally or know friends and family who knew them.

As news of the tragedy spread, people gathered for vigils, or prayer services to remember the children and pray for their families and the survivors. Dozens of people gathered Saturday for a rosary at a Roman Catholic church. On Sunday morning, black ribbons hung on the doors of the Avoyelles House of Mercy where parishioners gathered. On Monday, a candlelight memorial service is being held at the town’s high school football field where religious figures from across the small community are expected to speak. □

Associated Press

Suspects sought in California bowling alley triple homicide

By **Associated Press**

TORRANCE, Calif. (AP) — Police searched for suspects Sunday in a shooting that killed three men and injured four during a brawl at a popular Los Angeles-area bowling alley and karaoke bar.

Cell phone video aired by KNBC-TV showed groups of people throwing punches as a crowd gathered late Friday at Gable House Bowl in the coastal city of Torrance. Gunshots suddenly rang out and on-lookers screamed and ran for their lives.

There were no arrests. Police Sgt. Ronald Harris said Sunday that investigators are trying to determine if there may be more than



Investigators look for evidence around a shopping center adjacent to the Gable House Bowl following a shooting in Torrance, Calif., on Saturday, Jan. 5, 2019.

Associated Press.

one suspect.

“We just don’t know at this point,” he said. “That’s one of the many questions detectives are looking at.” Friends and family mem-

bers of the victims held a candlelight vigil Saturday night in the parking lot of the bowling alley in southern Los Angeles County. A memorial with photos and

flowers was also set up at the site. Officers responding to panicked 911 calls found seven people with gunshot wounds. Three men were pronounced dead at the scene and two were taken to a hospital, Harris said. Two other men were struck by gunfire but “opted to seek their own medical attention.”

Authorities have not identified the victims or suspects or released details about what led to the shooting. Witnesses said it stemmed from a fight between two large groups.

Dwayne Edwards, 60, of Los Angeles, said he received a call from his nephew that his 28-year-

old son, Astin Edwards, was one of those killed. His nephew told him his son was attempting to break up a fight when a gunman “just started unloading.” “I’m thinking this is a dream and I’ll wake up,” Edwards told the Orange County Register. “He was a good kid. I don’t understand it.” A grieving mother told KABC-7 her 28-year-old son, Robert Meekins, died while trying to break up the fight. She said Meekins and Astin Edwards were close. “They were friends, so I know he probably jumped in and helped Astin and whoever he was with ... but I don’t think my son deserves to die,” Anglean Hubbard said. □

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Trump says he needs to deal with Dem leaders to end shutdown

Continued from Front

With the partial shutdown in its third week, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi said she intends to begin passing individual bills to re-open agencies in the coming days, starting with the Treasury Department to ensure people receive their tax refunds.

That effort is designed to squeeze Senate Republicans, some of whom are growing increasingly anxious about the extended shutdown.

The seemingly intractable budget showdown marks the first clash for Trump and Democrats, who now control the House. It pits Trump's unpredictable negotiating stylings against a largely united Democratic front, as many Republicans watch nervously from the sidelines and hundreds of thousands of federal workers go without pay.

After another round of talks led by Vice President Mike Pence with senior congressional aides, Trump tweeted that the session had been "productive." But two Democrats familiar with the meeting gave a different take, saying the White House had not provided the budget details they had requested and again declined to re-open government. One of the officials — neither was authorized to speak publicly — said no additional meetings were scheduled.

Trump said earlier in the day that he was hoping for "some very serious talks come Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday."

While insisting he wanted to make a deal, he also declared he would not give an inch in his fight for funding for a border barrier, saying: "There's not going to be any bend right here."

Speaking to reporters later in the day, Trump said he had told aides to say that they wanted a steel barrier, rather than the concrete wall he promised during the campaign. Trump said Democrats "don't like concrete, so we'll give them steel."

The president has already suggested his definition of the wall is flexible, but Democrats have made clear they see a wall as immoral and ineffective and prefer other types of border security funded at already agreed upon levels.

Among the Republicans expressing concerns was Sen. Susan Collins, R-Maine, who said Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell should take up bills from the Democratic-led House. "Let's get those reopened while the negotiations continue," Collins said on NBC's "Meet the Press." Democrats criticized McConnell for waiting on Trump's support, but Collins said she was sympathetic to McConnell's opposition to moving legislation without agreement from the president.

Several Republicans pushed the Interior Department to find money to re-staff national parks amid growing concerns over upkeep and public safety. And Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., suggested Sunday that

pressure would only mount amid the shutdown, which he said is disrupting Transportation Security Administration operations, home loans and farmers in his state.

"Democrats and now a growing number of Republicans are coming together and saying let's open up the government and debate border security separately," Schumer told reporters in New York.

Adding to concerns, federal workers might miss this week's paychecks. Acting chief of staff Mick Mulvaney

said on NBC's "Meet the Press" that if the shutdown continues into Tuesday, "then payroll will not go out as originally planned on Friday night."

Trump reaffirmed that he would consider declaring a national emergency to circumvent Congress and spend money as he saw fit. Such a move would seem certain to draw legal challenges.

Incoming House Armed Services Committee Chairman Adam Smith, D-Wash., said on ABC's "This Week" that the executive power

has been used to build military facilities in Iraq and Afghanistan but would likely be "wide open" to a court challenge for a border wall. Speaking on CNN's "State of the Union," Intelligence Committee Chairman Adam Schiff called the idea a "nonstarter."

"Look, if Harry Truman couldn't nationalize the steel industry during wartime, this president doesn't have the power to declare an emergency and build a multibillion-dollar wall on the border," said Schiff, D-Calif. □



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Park Service to tap into entrance fees to keep operating

By Associated Press
WASHINGTON (AP) — The National Park Service says it is taking the extraordinary step of dipping into entrance fees to pay for staffing at its highly visited parks in the wake of the partial government shutdown. P. Daniel Smith, deputy director of the service, said in a statement Sunday that the money would be used to bring in staff to maintain restrooms, clean up trash and patrol the parks. He acknowledged that the Trump administration's decision to keep the parks open during the weekslong budget impasse was no longer workable and so more extreme measures were warranted. Parks have been relying



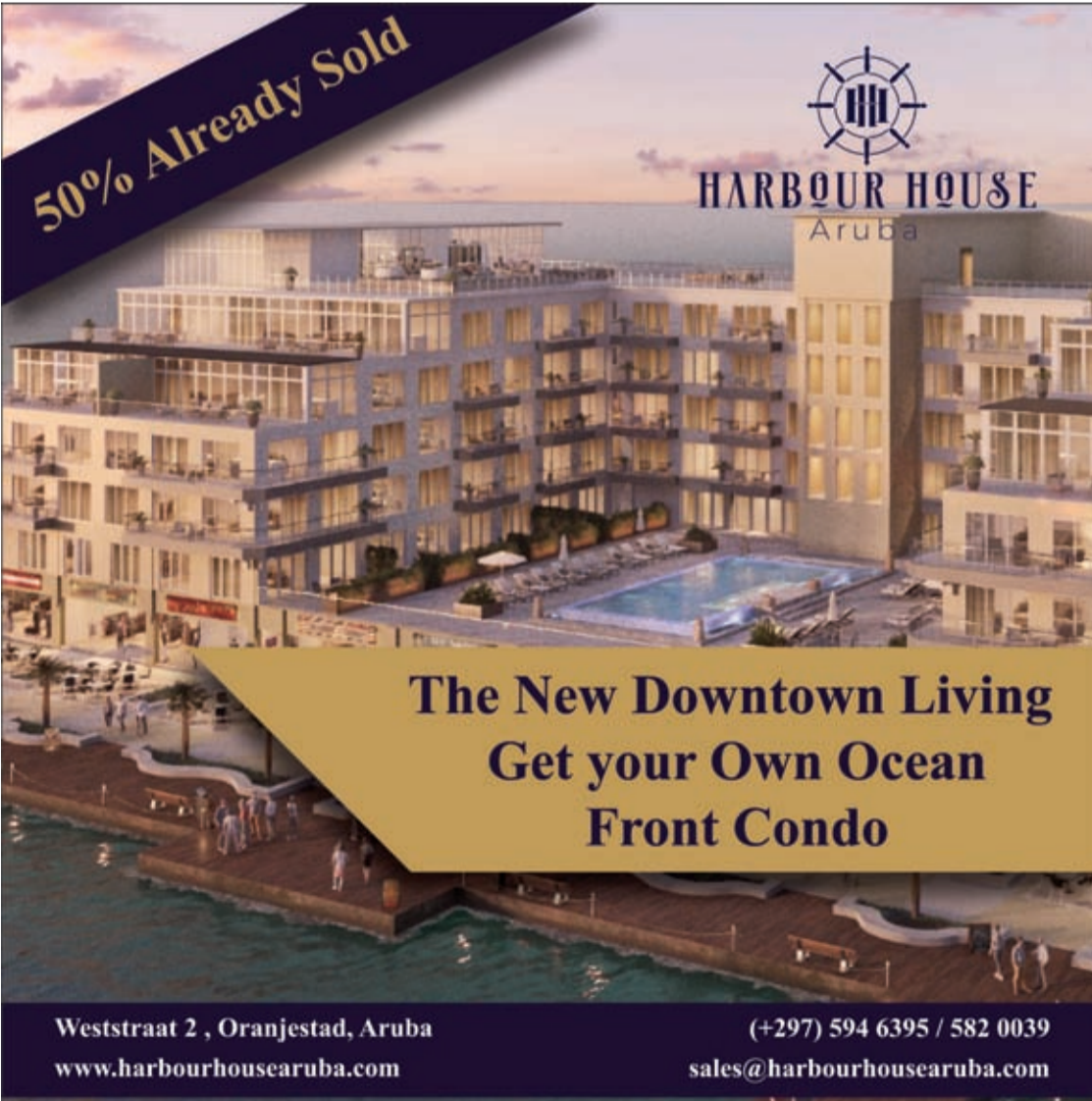
A sign is posted on a gate blocking a parking lot to Land's End in San Francisco, Thursday, Jan. 3, 2019.

on outside help for security and upkeep. "We are taking this extraordinary step to ensure that


parks are protected, and that visitors can continue to access parks with limited basic services," Smith said.

Associated Press. Republican Sen. Steve Daines of Montana warned Interior Secretary David Bernhardt on Saturday of "significant risk to property and public health" without funding. Three Utah Republican congressmen also asked Bernhardt to restart regular operations.

Democrats want the parks fully opened. But Rep. Betty McCollum of Minnesota, the incoming chair of the subcommittee overseeing Interior appropriations, said Sunday that dipping into user fees was "not acceptable" in this situation, and likely violates the law. Parks supporters called the administration's move misguided. "Instead of working to reopen the federal government, the administration is robbing money collected from entrance fees to operate our national parks during this shutdown," said Theresa Pierno, president and CEO for the National Parks Conservation Association. "For those parks that don't collect fees, they will now be in the position of competing for the same inadequate pot of money to protect their resources and visitors. Draining accounts dry is not the answer." □



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Disneyland raising prices, cheapest daily ticket over \$100

By Associated Press
LOS ANGELES (AP) — Disneyland Resort is raising prices ahead of the scheduled opening of a Star Wars-themed expansion, with the cheapest daily ticket costing more than \$100. Less than a year ago, prices were raised by up to 18 percent. The prices that took effect Sunday for tickets, annual passes and parking represent increases of up to 25 percent. The Los Angeles Times reports price increases in recent years haven't thinned the throngs at Disneyland

and nearby California Adventure Park. A one-day, one-park ticket is now \$104 for low-demand days, such as May weekdays. Tickets for regular- and peak-demand days are more. More visitors are expected for this summer's opening of "Star Wars: Galaxy's Edge." Spokeswoman Liz Jaeger says the resort offers a variety of tickets while helping manage demand and spread visitation. The least expensive one-day ticket to Disney World in Florida is \$109. □

Man charged with murder in Houston girl's death



This undated image provided the Harris County Sheriff's Office shows Eric Black Jr. Prosecutors said Sunday, Jan. 6, 2019, that the shooting death of a 7-year-old black girl as she rode in her family's vehicle stemmed from a case of mistaken identity.

Associated Press

By **JUAN A. LOZANO**
Associated Press

HOUSTON (AP) — A black man was arrested and charged with murder in the killing of a 7-year-old black girl in a drive-by shooting that authorities said Sunday appeared to be a case of mistaken identity, not a racially motivated attack, as her family feared.

Jazmine Barnes' family had described the gunman in the Dec. 30 slaying as a white man driving a red pickup and believed race played a role in the shooting. But acting on a tip received by a civil rights activist, the sheriff's department zeroed in instead on Eric Black Jr., a 20-year-old black man who admitted he was driving a dark-colored SUV from which a passenger opened fire, authorities said. Harris County Sheriff Ed Gonzalez said authorities have identified the second suspect, who is also black, but would not say whether the person was in custody. Gonzalez cautioned that authorities were still investigating, but said: "At this point, it does not appear it was related to race." Chris Sevilla, Jazmine's father, said in a brief telephone interview that he was feeling "a bit of relief right now" after the arrest. The shooting took place at a stoplight while Jazmine, her mother and

three sisters were on their way to the grocery store.

At a court hearing early Sunday, prosecutors said a confidential source had contacted the sheriff by email and told him the killers had "shot the car by mistake," thinking the vehicle was someone else's that they had seen earlier that night. Prosecutors did not say why the killers opened fire. The sheriff said there was, in fact, a red truck at a stoplight just before the shooting, but the driver did not appear to have been involved. Gonzalez said it was dark, the shooting happened quickly, and truck was probably the last thing seen by the Jazmine family.

Authorities want to talk to the person in the red pickup to get his account of the crime, Gonzalez said.

Black, who was arrested Saturday night during a traffic stop, was charged with capital murder and jailed without bail. Court records did not list an attorney for him. Prosecutors said the 9 mm handgun believed used in the shooting had been recovered from Black's home.

During Sunday's hearing, prosecutors said Jazmine's mother, LaPorsha Washington, had tried to drive to a hospital after the shooting, but one of her front tires had been shot out.

After the shooting, a composite sketch of a white man in a dark hood was widely circulated. Jazmine's family and activists had said the shooting was similar to an unsolved incident in the area in 2017 in which a gunman described as white shot into a vehicle carrying at least two black people.

The girl's killing prompted an outpouring of support for her family from celebrities and ordinary people across the country. On Saturday, hundreds gathered at a rally near where the shooting happened, holding balloons, stuffed animals and signs that read, "Justice for Jazmine." A \$100,000 reward was of-

ferred for information leading to an arrest. Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner said the support Jazmine's family received provided law enforcement "with a sense of urgency and made Jazmine's loved ones know they weren't alone in their time of grief." "We share their deep sense of loss and anger," Turner said. □

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Drugmakers seek sanctions over '60 Minutes' comments

Associated Press

CLEVELAND (AP) — Several drug manufacturers targeted in lawsuits over the opioid epidemic have asked a federal judge in Cleveland to sanction the man who is Ohio's attorney general and governor-elect, along with two other lawyers, for statements they made in recent television interviews. Friday's motion said statements by Republican Attorney General and Gov.-elect Mike DeWine and the others on an episode of CBS' "60 Minutes" were calculated to taint potential jury pools, Cleveland.com reported.

DeWine and attorneys Mike Moore and Burton LeBlanc were part of a Dec. 16 segment on the news magazine show about litigation over the role of big pharmaceutical companies in the deadly opioid epidemic. Correspondent Bill Whitaker explored topics including the value of potential damages and data on pill distribution in states and cities collected by the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration.



In this Nov. 13, 2018, file photo Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine speaks during a news conference in Waverly, Ohio.

The motion was filed by attorneys for several drug manufacturers and distributors, including Cardinal Health, Endo, AmersourceBergen and Purdue Pharma. It alleges DeWine, Moore and LeBlanc were part of a "concerted campaign" by lawyers representing state and local

governments "to taint potential jury pools . through misleading, inflammatory, and improper public statements." The motion asks the judge to impose a gag order and other sanctions. The defendants claim the men's statements represented "a flagrant violation of their ethical obligations

as attorneys practicing before this Court and threatens defendants' rights to a fair adjudication of the claims asserted against them." Attorney General's Office spokesman Dan Tierney told The Associated Press in an email Saturday night that Dewine "respectfully declines comment."

Associated Press

Cleveland.com reports that Moore declined to comment Friday because he hadn't seen the motion and that LeBlanc didn't immediately respond to a voicemail. Phone and email messages seeking comment were left for both attorneys Sunday by The Associated Press.

The motion comes amid preparations for a September trial over claims against drug companies by the cities of Cleveland and Akron and their respective counties, Cuyahoga and Summit. The cases are among scores from around the country being heard by U.S. District Judge Dan Polster.

A group represented by DeWine filed its own lawsuits over fallout from the opioid epidemic. A second, larger group has joined a multistate investigation of the industry.

The suits accuse pharmaceutical companies of downplaying the addictive nature of opioids and prescription painkillers largely blamed for one of the deadliest drug crises in U.S. history. □



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Huge trash-collecting boom in Pacific Ocean breaks apart

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A trash collection device deployed to corral plastic litter floating in the Pacific Ocean between California and Hawaii has broken apart and will be hauled back to dry land for repairs. Boyan Slat, who launched the Pacific Ocean cleanup project, told NBC News last week that the 2,000-foot (600-meter) long floating boom will be towed 800 miles (1,300 kilometers) to Hawaii.

If it can't be repaired there, it will be loaded on a barge and returned to its home port of Alameda, California.

The boom broke apart under constant wind and waves in the Pacific.

Slat said he's disappointed, but not discouraged and pledged that operations would resume as soon as



In this May 11, 2017, file photo, Dutch innovator Boyan Slat poses for a portrait next to a pile of plastic garbage prior to a press conference in Utrecht, Netherlands.

possible.

"This is an entirely new category of machine that is out there in extremely challenging conditions," the 24-year-old Dutch inventor said.

"We always took into account that we might have

to take it back and forth a few times. So it's really not a significant departure from the original plan." Previously Slat said the boom was moving slower than the plastic, allowing the trash to float away.

A ship towed the U-shaped

Associated Press.

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barrier in September from San Francisco to the Great Pacific Garbage Patch — an island of trash twice the size of Texas. It had been in place since the end of October.

The plastic barrier with a tapered 10-foot-deep (3-meter-deep) screen is intended to act like a coastline,

trapping some of the 1.8 trillion pieces of plastic that scientists estimate are swirling in the patch while allowing marine life to safely swim beneath it.

Slat has said he hopes one day to deploy 60 of the devices to skim plastic debris off the surface of the ocean. □

California highway closed by mudslides, more rain coming

By Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A powerful winter storm unleashed mudslides in Southern California wildfire burn areas and trapped motorists on a major highway, and the northern part of the state braced for more wet weather Sunday.

Saturday's deluge loosened hillsides where a major blaze burned last year in and around Malibu, clogging the Pacific Coast Highway with mud and debris. A stretch of the scenic route northwest of Los Angeles was expected to remain closed in both directions until Monday while crews tow away stuck vehicles and clear lanes. No injuries were reported.

The rapper Soulja Boy was among those whose cars were mired in the muck that was up to 4 feet (1.2 meters) deep in some areas. The 28-year-old retweeted a photo of the mudslide and posted: "My car got stuck too almost went into the ocean," along with a prayer emoji.

An automated rain gauge in the western Santa Mon-



In this Nov. 29, 2018, file photo, workers shovel snow off a staircase at Mt. Rose Ski Tahoe near Reno, Nev. Avalanche warnings have been posted in parts of California, Nevada and Utah after a winter storm dumped heavy snow on the region.

ica Mountains showed nearly three-quarters of an inch (nearly 2 centimeters) of rainfall in one hour, said the National Weather Service. "These are heavy rates," the weather service tweeted.

Up to 1 ½ inches (3.8 centimeters) of rain fell in coast-

al and valley areas, while mountain communities got heavy snow.

Flash-flood watches and warnings were eventually lifted for areas burned by the fires that scorched more than 155 square miles (404 square kilometers) of brush and timber acres

Associated Press.

in November, destroyed about 1,600 structures and claimed three lives.

The sun emerged in Los Angeles on Sunday and the red carpet for the evenings Golden Globe awards were expected to remain dry. Scattered showers were possible later in the

night.

To the north, wind and rain forced delays or cancellations of flights out of San Francisco International Airport for a second day. A wind advisory was in place until 10 p.m. Sunday.

The San Francisco Bay Area could get up to 1 ½ inches (3.8 centimeters) of rain, with the heaviest downpours coming after sunset. Saturday's storm brought about a foot (30 centimeters) of snow to the Sierra Nevada and twice that amount was expected Sunday. A winter storm warning was in effect until 4 a.m. Monday.

Avalanche warnings were posted in parts of California, Nevada and Utah. The Sierra Avalanche Center issued a backcountry avalanche warning for the Lake Tahoe area stretching south into the Sierra along the California-Nevada line from noon Sunday until 7 a.m. Monday.

The National Weather Service says blizzard conditions with gale-force winds could trigger widespread avalanche activity. □

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With US leaving, rival powers seek to move into Syria's east

By **SARAH EL DEEB**
Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — The planned U.S. troop withdrawal opens up a void in the north and east of Syria, and the conflicts and rivalries among all the powers in the Middle East are converging to fill it. The American decision to pull out its 2,000 troops has forced a reassessment of old alliances and partnerships. The Syrian government, the Kurds, Russia, Iran, Israel and Turkey have all had a hand in the country's nearly eight-year war — each in a way, fighting its own war for its own reasons within Syria. Now all of those conflicts play out in the territory being abandoned by the Americans, creating new tensions, potential chaos and bloodshed.

To reassure jittery allies, Washington sent national security adviser John Bolton to Israel on Sunday, where he said U.S. troops will not leave northeastern Syria until IS militants are defeated and American-allied Kurdish fighters are protected. The comments put the brakes on a withdrawal abruptly announced last month and initially expected to be completed within weeks. The announcement upset regional allies and Pentagon officials who disagreed with the assessment that IS was defeated. "We're going to be removing our troops. I never said we're doing it that quickly," Trump told reporters in Washington Sunday. Here is a look at what's at stake.

THE TERRITORY

The area up for grabs is



In this file photo taken on Wednesday, March 28, 2018, a member of the Kurdish internal security forces holds his weapon during a patrol in Manbij, north Syria.

around a third of Syria, forming a rough triangle. To the north is the border with Turkey, to the east the border with Iraq, and the third side is the Euphrates River. This was the heart of the Islamic State group's foothold in Syria until the United States partnered with a Kurdish militia, creating a force of some 60,000 fighters — including some Syrian Arabs and Christian Assyrians — that wrested it away from the militants.

The territory is strategically important. For the Syrian government of President Bashar Assad and its allies Russia and Iran, regaining it means re-establishing sovereignty. The territory was once the source of Syria's wheat and barley, its dams generated electricity and it holds some of Syria's richest oil resources. Without it, Assad will have a harder time with reconstruction and operating long term. For the same reasons, it's been a source of income for the Kurdish militia.

For the Kurds, their hold gave weight to their long-

sought goal of autonomy. For the U.S., the troop presence ensured American influence. Turkey sees Kurdish autonomy on its border as an existential threat and has vowed to prevent this, accusing the U.S. of empowering the militia Ankara says is linked to Kurdish insurgents in Turkey.

ASSAD and RUSSIA

Without the Americans, the door opens for Assad and his Russian backers to move in.

"The only obstacle preventing Assad from gaining control of the east was the U.S. presence and the cover that it provided to the (Kurdish militia). With that gone ... there is simply no real challenge that would prevent the regime from re-establishing control over those areas," said Ayyham Kamel, of the Eurasia group.

Abandoned by the U.S., the Kurdish fighters are forced to move toward Russia and Assad for protection against their more feared enemy, Turkey. Their force,

armed and equipped by the U.S.-led coalition, is unlikely to disappear. Instead, it is seeking an arrangement with Assad to continue operating as the government extends control over the territory.

Syrian officials boast that the withdrawal is a defeat to America. Controlling the east would help seal Assad's victory in the civil war. The American move also accelerates a trend by Arab states to normalize relations with Assad, whom they shunned for years. The United Arab Emirates, a close U.S. and Saudi ally, recently reopened its embassy in Damascus.

TURKEY vs. KURDS, RUSSIA and ASSAD

Turkey's military, along with some 15,000 allied Syrian rebel fighters, is poised to launch an offensive in the east to break Kurdish control over the border.

But an offensive risks creating friction with Russia. In particular, it could wreck a cease-fire agreement the two reached over Idlib, the northwestern province held by rebels and Islamic militants where Turkey has influence — enabling a Syrian government assault on the province. Russian and Turkish officials have been holding talks, trying to avert tensions.

"A massive Turkish operation is not in Russia's interest. It destabilizes the situation, risks undermining Idlib agreements and talks on reconstruction. Plus, if Turkey decides to capture all of the Kurdish areas it will inevitably clash with Russia and Iran," said Yury Barmin, a Russia analyst.

Turkey is equally concerned over the prospect of Syrian government control over the east. In the past, Damascus has used the Kurdish militia as leverage against Ankara and could do so again. For nearly 20 years, Syria hosted the main Kurdish leader until he was captured in 1998, now imprisoned in Turkey.

IRAN and ISRAEL

A Syrian government move east means the spread of Iran as well. It will dramatically widen the land corridor where Iran enjoys free rein for its allied fighters, weapons and supplies across Iraq and Syria to Lebanon. Already, Iranian-backed militias have expanded control over areas near Syria's border with Iraq and freely cross back and forth.

That has alarmed Israel. The likely result will be increased Israeli airstrikes against suspected Iranian-linked targets in Syria.

THE U.S., TURKEY and the ISLAMIC STATE GROUP

President Donald Trump dismissed the idea that the U.S. needs influence in the conflict, saying Syria was nothing but "sand and death." He claims the U.S. mission there — to fight IS — has largely been completed. But IS still holds pockets and U.S.-led coalition officials warn it could surge again. Bolton told reporters in Jerusalem that the conditions for a U.S. troop withdrawal include the defeat of remnants of IS in Syria, and protections for Kurdish militias who have fought alongside U.S. troops against the extremist group. □

Egypt el-Sissi inaugurates cathedral, mosque in new capital



The Cross of the "Great St. Antony Church", right, and the dome of the Great mosque, left, are illuminated in Cairo, Egypt, Sunday, Jan. 6, 2019.

Associated Press

By HAMZA HENDAWI
Associated Press

CAIRO (AP) — Egypt's president on Sunday inaugurated a new cathedral for the Coptic Orthodox Church and one of the region's largest mosques in a highly symbolic gesture at a time when Islamic militants are increasingly targeting the country's minority Christians.

Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi, a general-turned-president, has made sectarian harmony a cornerstone of his rule, fighting Islamic militancy while advocating equality between the overwhelming Muslim majority and Christians, who account for 10 percent of Egypt's 100 million people.

"This is a historic and important moment," said el-Sissi inside the cathedral. "But we still have to protect the tree of love we planted here together today because seditions never end." The Grand Sheikh of Al-Azhar, the world's primary seat of learning for Sunni Muslims, echoed el-Sissi's sentiments in comments also made at the cathedral.

The two places of worship, he said, stand as a symbol in the face of "attempts to undermine the country's stability and sectarian seditions."

El-Sissi's widely publicized policy to staunch sectari-

anism, however, has done little to protect Christians in rural Egypt, where Muslim extremists frequently attack their homes and businesses or force them to leave their homes after violent disputes.

Critics and activists say discrimination against Christians there is often tolerated by local authorities and branches of the security agencies. Christians also complain of stringent restrictions on the construction of churches.

But Sunday's opening ceremony in Egypt's New Administrative Capital, el-Sissi's brainchild that is located in the desert east of Cairo, stressed what the pro-government media like to call the "unbreakable national fabric" of Christians and Muslims. Entertainers and chorus lines took to the stage to sing about the two faiths living peacefully side by side. Short films on the same topic were also screened.

The ceremony's presenters portrayed the construction of the cathedral and the mosque, which took 18 months to complete, as a message to humanity. "It is a message to the whole world that Egypt is a nation for all," said one presenter. The ceremony, attended by Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas and a host of Arab dignitaries, included

recorded video messages of support from the region's top Christian clerics as well as Pope Francis.

Speaking in Italian, Pope Francis said: "With joy I greet all of you on the joyful occasion of the dedication of the new Cathedral of the Nativity, built in the new administrative capital. May the prince of peace give to Egypt, the Middle East and the whole world the gift of peace and prosperity."

The heightened security followed a spate of attacks claimed by the Islamic State group which has targeted churches and buses carrying pilgrims to remote desert monasteries, killing more than 100 Christians over the past two years. □

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Brother questions why American man being held by Russia

By **JIM HEINTZ**
BRIDGET VIRGO
Associated Press

MOSCOW (AP)— The brother of an American man being held in Moscow on suspicion of spying is raising the possibility that his sibling is being used as a pawn in a potential exchange for a Russian woman behind bars in the U.S.

Paul Whelan's brother told The Associated Press that he can't help but question if the events are connected.

"You look at what's going on and you wonder if this is just a large game of pieces being moved around," David Whelan told the AP via Skype from Newmarket, Ontario. "You start to wonder if all of these things are connected. But at the same time, they could just be arbitrary events."

Asked about the matter by reporters at the White House on Sunday, President Donald Trump said: "We're looking into that." Paul Whelan, a former U.S. Marine who also holds Canadian, British and Irish citi-



This undated file photo provided by the Whelan family shows Paul Whelan in Iceland.

zenship, was detained in Moscow in late December. His arrest has led to speculation that Russia could be using him to bargain for a Russian woman who has pleaded guilty to acting as a foreign agent in the U.S. But Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov said Saturday that discussing a possible swap involving Whelan and Maria Butina would be premature because Whelan hasn't been formally charged, according to Russian news agencies.

"As to the possibility of ex-

changes of one sort of another, it's impossible and incorrect to consider the question now when an official charge hasn't even been presented," Ryabkov was quoted as saying by state news agency RIA-Novosti.

"Charges will be presented in the near future," he said, according to the Interfax agency.

Some Russian news reports earlier cited unnamed sources as saying Whelan had been indicted on espionage charges that carry a possible prison sentence of 20 years.

Russian officials haven't given details of Whelan's suspected activities and he was initially identified

only as an American. His concurrent Canadian, British and Irish citizenships became known on Friday.

U.S. Ambassador Jon Huntsman Jr. visited Whelan on Wednesday in Moscow's Lefortovo Prison, a 130-year-old facility noted for strict conditions. Britain, Canada and Ireland have applied for consular access to him.

Whelan, 48, was discharged from the Marines for bad conduct. He works as the global security director for a U.S. automobile parts manufacturer and lives in Michigan. His family has said he was in Moscow to attend a wedding.

His brother, David, told the AP that Whelan loves to travel and likes to "interact with the people in the places that he goes," but that Whelan would be too "conspicuous" to be selected as a spy.

David Whelan said his family had had no direct contact with Paul and had received no details about the alleged espionage charges from either the Russian or U.S. governments.

"He likes to go places and Russia happens to be a place where he knows people and when he's

there, he does go and visit," David Whelan said.

Paul Whelan established an account on VKontakte, a social media service similar to Facebook that is popular among Russians, which showed he had scores of contacts in Russia. Many attended universities affiliated with the military, civil aviation or technical studies. Many share his interest in sports and firearms.

Also Saturday, the Foreign Ministry said it was seeking information about a Russian who was arrested Dec. 29 in Saipan in the Northern Mariana Islands, a U.S. commonwealth in the Pacific. The ministry said Sergei Makarenko was sent to Florida after his arrest and it wants consular access to him.

The Saipan Tribune reported that Makarenko was indicted in 2017 in Florida for the alleged illegal shipment of military goods to Russia.

Konstantin Kosachev, head of the international affairs committee of the upper house of the Russian parliament, said Makarenko's arrest was "the latest attack on a citizen of Russia outside the framework of international law," Interfax reported. □

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Poland shuts down 13 escape game sites due to safety flaws



Forensic and other police experts examine the site of a fire in an Escape Room, in Koszalin, northern Poland, on Saturday, Jan. 5, 2019.

By **MONIKA SCISLOWSKA**
Associated Press
WARSAW, Poland (AP) — Polish officials have shut down 13 escape room entertainment sites for safety

flaws and the prime minister asked people Sunday to report such lapses to firefighters and police after five teenage girls were killed in a fire.

Players in escape room games are locked inside a room or building and must solve puzzles and find clues that lead them to the key that will unlock the door. Regarded as an intellectual challenge, the games are highly popular among teenagers in Poland.

Fire chief Leszek Suski said the escape room at a private house in the city of Koszalin, where the 15-year-old girls died Friday locked inside a room celebrating a birthday, had no emergency evacuation route. They were the first known deaths in an escape room, a form of entertainment that has been growing in Poland over the past five years. □





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Congo delays announcing results of presidential election



An exhausted Congolese independent electoral commission (CENI) official rests as results are tallied for the presidential election, at a local results compilation center in Kinshasa, Congo, Sunday, Jan. 6, 2019.

By **MATHILDE BOUSSION**
SALEH MWANAMILONGO
Associated Press

KINSHASA, Congo (AP) — Congo's government Sunday postponed the release of the results of last weekend's presidential election, fueling suspicions President Joseph Kabila's ruling party is maneuvering to cling to power.

No new date for announcing the winner of the Dec. 30 election was given. Electoral officials have compiled 53 percent of the votes and will not release any information until all the ballots have been tallied, said Corneille Nangaa, head of the electoral commission.

"We handle sensitive data and have to handle it responsibly," he said. He asked Congo's people to "remain patient."

"We are aware this process has always been surrounded by distrust," he said, referring to calls from the Catholic Church, the African Union, the U.S. and other diplomats for the government to announce accurate results.

Kabila, who is stepping down after 18 years in power, had delayed the elec-

tion for two years. The postponement in announcing the winner was seen by some Congolese as part of an effort by Kabila's party to manipulate the results in order to claim victory.

The Catholic Church, an influential voice in this heavily Catholic nation, turned up the pressure by saying it already knows there is a clear victor, based on data compiled by the church's 40,000 election observers. Because Congo's regulations say only the electoral commission can announce election results, the church did not name the winner.

Congo's ruling party, which backs Kabila's preferred candidate, Emmanuel Ramazani Shadary, called the church's statement "irresponsible and anarchist." The leading opposition candidate is Martin Fayulu, a businessman and lawmaker.

This could be Congo's first democratic, peaceful transfer of power since independence from Belgium in 1960.

For the past week, the government cut off internet access across the vast Central African country to prevent any speculation

on social media about who won. The government has also blocked transmissions from Radio France International, which was alleged to have speculated on the winner, and revoked the press credentials of RFI's correspondent.

Election observers and the opposition have raised concerns about voting irregularities, including the government's decision to

bar 1 million voters in eastern Congo from casting ballots because of what it said was the Ebola outbreak in the region. Eastern Congo is known as a center of the opposition.

Western observers were not invited to watch the balloting, and the U.S. has threatened sanctions against those who undermine the democratic process.

While Congo was largely

calm during and after the voting, President Donald Trump said about 80 military personnel and combat equipment had been deployed to neighboring Gabon to protect American citizens and diplomatic facilities in Congo. Ahead of the vote, the U.S. ordered non-emergency government employees and family members to leave the country. □

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Iconic Japanese newspaper in Brazil closes after 72 years

By VICTOR CAIVANO

Associated Press

SAO PAULO (AP) — The Sao Paulo Shimbun newspaper has printed its final edition, ending a 72-year run as a vital reference point and voice for Brazil's Japanese community - the largest in the world outside of Japan. The Japanese-language newspaper, whose final edition rolled off the presses Jan. 1, was a victim of declining sales, an aging readership and the internet. Its owner, Helena Mizumoto, said an online version may be launched in the future.

Sao Paulo Shimbun was founded in 1946, shortly after the end of World War II. Mizumoto said that before the internet and cable television, immigrants would call the newspaper to find out where they could find Japanese-owned business. "The Google of the community was here," Mizumoto said, adding that the newspaper was instrumental in letting expats know that Japan had lost the war.

For decades Sao Paulo Shimbun, from its offices in Sao Paulo's Asian neighborhood of Liberdade,



In this Dec. 21, 2018 photo, the Sao Paulo Shimbun Japanese newspaper is printed in Sao Paulo, Brazil.

served as the main reference point for Japanese living in the South American country. While mainly in Japanese, it printed a few pages in Portuguese as well.

Japanese expats got most of their national and international information from the Sao Paulo Shimbun up until the 1990s, but that "ended with internet and the NHK Japanese news

channel," said Eduardo Nakashima, secretary general of the Brazil-Japan Cultural Alliance.

In Liberdade, Nobukazu Kanomata, an 83-year-old massage therapist who was born in Japan and came to Brazil after the war, said the newspaper closed "because there are fewer people in the community able to read Japanese and the quality of its

articles got worse." Kanomata spoke in the main square of Liberdade where he goes every morning at 6 a.m. to practice radio taiso exercises with other elderly Japanese immigrants.

Businessman Yoshikatsu Yamashita said he only read the part of the newspaper printed in Portuguese "because the part in Japanese was a bit dif-

Associated Press

ficult." Brazil's first Japanese migrants arrived in the port of Santos aboard the steamship Kasato Maru on June 18, 1908, spurring a wave of immigration that grew to about 2 million people. They introduced foods that changed Brazilian cuisine and farming techniques that helped turn Latin America's biggest country into an agricultural superpower.

The arrival of the first immigrants was the result of negotiations between Japan and Sao Paulo state, where most Japanese-Brazilians still live. Japan needed an escape valve for poor farmers, who were left out of the country's rapid modernization beginning in the late 1800s. Meanwhile, Sao Paulo coffee growers needed more workers to tend to their coffee plantations.

Like many immigrant groups, the early settlers planned to return home in two to five years and start new lives with their earnings. But they quickly realized they would never save enough for a return ticket. Many eventually migrated to urban centers or to other rural areas. □

Venezuela's congress names new leader, vows to battle Maduro

By SCOTT SMITH

Associated Press

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)

— Venezuela's opposition-controlled congress opened its first session of the year Saturday, installing a fresh-faced leader who struck a defiant tone and vowed to take up the battle against socialist President Nicolas Maduro.

Juan Guaido, 35, assumes the presidency of a National Assembly stripped of power by Maduro, whose government is blamed for leading the once-wealthy oil nation into a historic political and humanitarian crisis. Speaking to legislators, Guaido named off several opposition politicians and opponents of Maduro's government who have been jailed, driven into exile or killed. He said desperation has forced masses of



Venezuelan lawmaker Juan Guaido swears in as President of the National Assembly in Caracas, Venezuela, Saturday, Jan. 5, 2019.

citizens to flee abroad looking for work.

"We are under an oppressive system," he said. "It's not just that — it is miserable."

Tall and youthful, Guaido

represents the next generation of Venezuelan political opposition, taking up the assembly's leadership following 74-year-old Omar Barboza.

Guaido is an industrial en-

gineer and former student leader from the same political party as Leopoldo Lopez, Venezuela's most popular opposition leader under house arrest. Government opponents consider him a political prisoner. Guaido called Maduro a dictator whose legitimacy has run out. Venezuela is living a "dark but transitional" moment of its history, he said, adding that among its first acts congress will create a transitional body to restore constitutional order, but he offered no details. He addressed a hall filled only with opposition lawmakers as the government loyalists have long boycotted any sessions, saying the National Assembly has itself overstepped its authority. However, roughly 20 foreign diplomats from the United States, Canada,

Japan, Italy and Germany attended the assembly's inaugural session in a show of solidarity.

"The National Assembly should inspire hope in the Venezuelan people for a peaceful, prosperous, and democratic future, even as the corrupt and authoritarian Maduro regime and its allies seek to deny Venezuelans that right," the State Department said in a statement. It added: "Every nation must take strong action to help the Venezuelan people reclaim their democracy."

The assembly opened days before Maduro's inauguration to a second, six-year term widely condemned as illegitimate after he declared victory in the May 20 election that many foreign powers considered a sham. □

LOCAL



Peru's Rotisserie Chicken is Here



EAGLE BEACH — Las Brasas Peruanas is the new kid on the block, part of the restaurant, Asi es mi Peru, at Paradise Beach Villas. Offering authentic Peruvian roasted chicken that gives you a mouthwatering experience, moreover because this is a dish prepared with love by the Peruvian chef, presented with pride by the Peruvian owner Roxana van Nes and her Dutch-Surinam husband Jan van Nes. You will encounter soft and juicy meat, a crispy skin and that special taste because of a 24-hour marinade_ a must-try.

"Pollo a la Brasa, roasted chicken, is a very popular dish in Peru and the first thing my wife does when she visits her home country is paying a visit to Pardos, a well-known chicken rotisserie in Lima. She realized she never found a place like this on the island of Aruba", says Jan. "The seasoning makes the difference and when it lacks the chicken will be dry and without taste. That was our motivation to bring our own charcoal burning rotisserie from Peru, eco-friendly as it traps heat and steam internally meaning there is no smoke." In the United States roasted chicken is a popular dish, now visitors can have a taste of their favorite home-dish, but with the Peruvian twist.

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A family-oriented restaurant is what Asi es mi Peru strives for, and with this extra value of delicious roasted chicken they make this a fact.

Asi es mi Peru and Las Brasas Peruanas are open for lunch and dinner, check out their Facebook page: AsiEsMiPeru or website www.asiesmiperuenaruba.com. □



Happy Island Miracles in Pictures & Words

• Aruba • Point to Point •



Federico Cabello Alvarez

ORANJESTAD — Books, they can shake your world upside down. A good book is changing your mood like that perfect vacation spot that energizes your spirit. Put these two together and what you get is a vacation book plus a memory of that wonderful, heavenly place where you spent your valuable leisure time. Aruba Today dived into a local book store and wondered which Aruba books thrill the visitor's mind. Sylvia Wouters, store manager at Bruna Book Store, gladly helped us out and informed us about a small selection of Happy Island Miracles in pictures and words.

Aruba Point to Point by Federico Cabello

"Beautiful pictures of Aruba, this is a perfect coffee table book to dream away with", explains Sylvia. The book has 192 full color pages and more than 400 photos in a landscape format of 9.1 x 6.6 x 1.1 inches. In the words of the author: "Slipping beyond a dynamic tourist industry to discover its wild and undeveloped beauty. Starting at the extreme north of the island, at California Lighthouse, I travel south along pristine beaches of white sand and calm, translucent seas, passing hotels, sailboats and shipwrecks as

I go. At the southern tip, it is hard not to wish that the island would never end. Then back up the rocky East coast, where time and the eternal embrace of the waves have opened secret bays and stunning beaches in the shelter of rock walls. From beach to beach, point to point, cave to cliff to boat to bird, Aruba truly is... One Happy Island."

We Are Aruba by Linda Reijnders

Worldly life tales of islanders that come from 76 different countries. This is a book that tells the stories of immigrants who make up for the multicultural society that Aruba is. A world within an island, a cocktail of people. The book is visibly enriched with a picture of each interviewed immigrant and an image of her/his country as well as a map with the country's location. In the back you will find a list with all nationalities living in the island and their numbers.

Aruba Monuments Guide by Michel Bakker and Olga van der Klooster

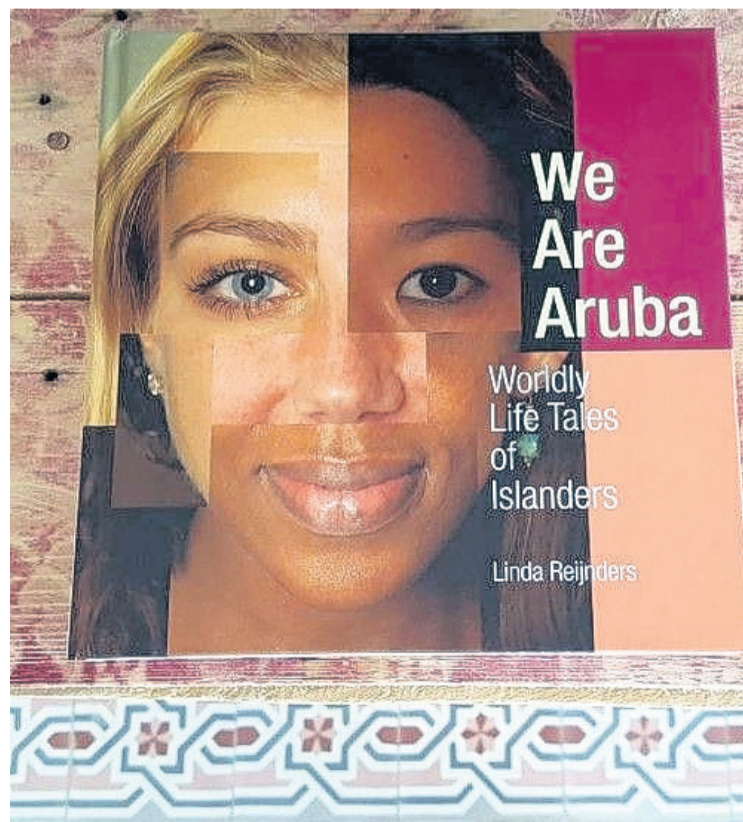
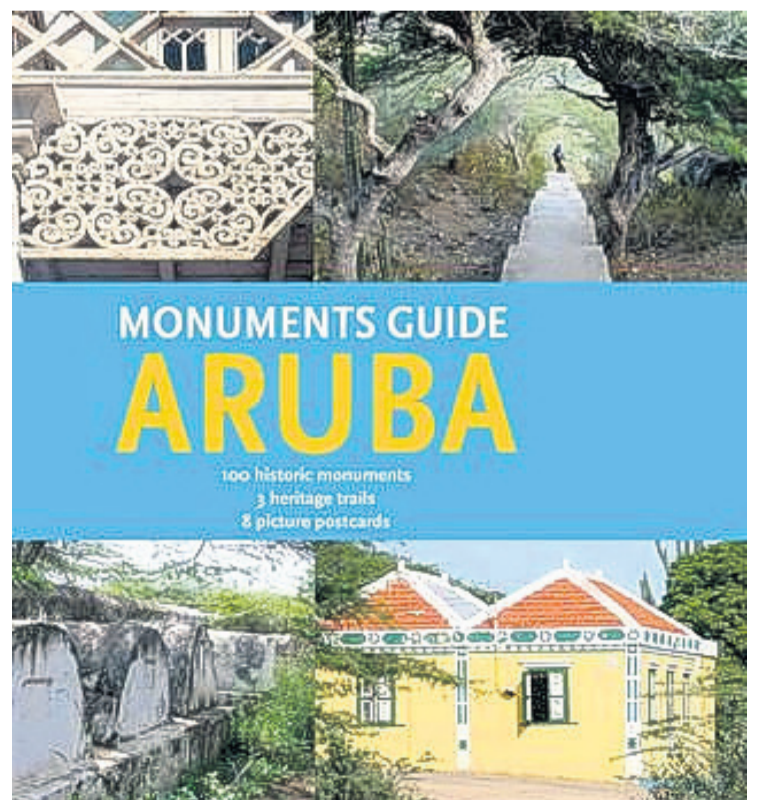
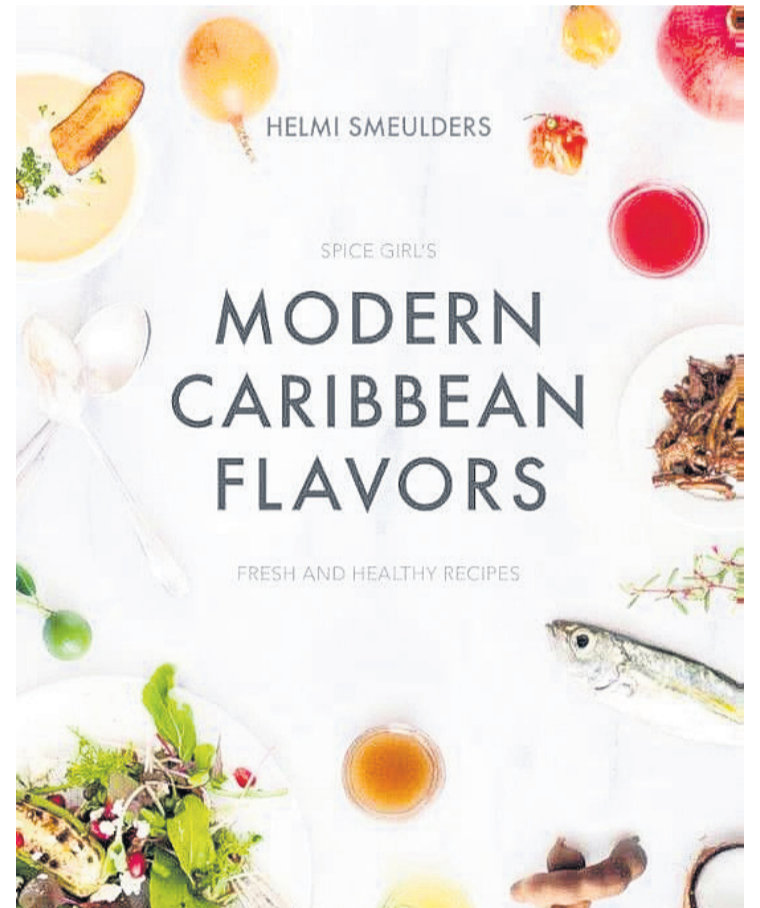
Aruba! Everyone knows this tropical island in the sun with pearly white beaches and palm trees swaying in the trade winds. But there's more to Aruba than this. It has a fascinating history, a diverse culture and a rich architecture. Traces can still be found of the original in-

digenous inhabitants, and of the gold industry and aloe plantations. The islands architectural heritage includes historic churches, a fort and a lighthouse. And you will come across the islands characteristic cunucu houses wherever you go. This guide will lead you through this wonderful cultural heritage along three routes: one driving route around the entire island, and two walking routes in the cities of Oranjestad and San Nicolas. You will discover places known only to insiders. And of course this guide also provides his-

torical backgrounds and practical information.

Modern Caribbean Flavors by Helmi Smeulders

This is the book about the contemporary Caribbean kitchen with healthy recipes made with fresh and local ingredients. With recipes for Tropical Quinoa Salad with Mango & Pomegranate Seeds, Sweet Potato Salad, Goat Merguez, Watermelon Sangria or Plantain Soup, the Caribbean vibe enters your kitchen, and you feel for a bit you are back in the tropics again...☐



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Mrs. Angela Maria Perozo won the Lincoln MKC at Renaissance Mall!

ORANJESTAD — Friday afternoon all fifteen winners of the end year's campaign at Renaissance Mall and Wind Creek Crystal & Seaport Casino were presented at Renaissance Mall. Only one of them would have the honor to unwrap the gift that revealed the key to start a Lincoln MKC 2018. Everybody who did shopping for \$ 50 or more at the Renaissance Mall had this unique opportunity to win the fantastic car. Those who tried their luck at the Wind Creek Crystal & Seaport Casino also participated whenever 50 points or more were achieved. Out of a huge tombola the fifteen names were drawn that had the chance to win the car.



Winner of the Lincoln MKC 2018, Mrs. Angela Maria Perozo and family



Mrs. Jody-Lynn Desbarida, marketing executive of Renaissance Mall & Marketplace, Mrs. Shadira Fingal marketing executive of Wind Creek Crystal & Seaport Casino together with the winner of the Travel Voucher, Leomar Hazel.

During the event for the fifteen winners the main price was the car, but there were fourteen other prizes to win like for example a Travel Voucher of \$ 3,000. It was an exciting moment when all fifteen possible winners got to open their present and see if there was a car key inside. Mrs. Angela Maria Perozo was clearly happy when she found out she was the one with the key to the beautiful Lincoln MKC 2018. She played at the Wind Creek Crystal & Seaport Casino, accumulated her coupons and deposited her coupon. She entered the New Year driving her own new car. Leomar Hazel bought a polo-shirt at Nautica at Renaissance Mall- and won a Travel Voucher with the value of \$3,000!

Renaissance Mall and Wind Creek Crystal & Seaport Casino congratulates all fifteen winners of the end of the year campaign! □



Mrs. Jody-Lynn Desbarida, marketing executive of Renaissance Mall & Marketplace, Mrs. Shadira Fingal marketing executive of Wind Creek Crystal & Seaport Casino together with Mrs. Angela Maria Perozo.

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Where, When and How

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Honeymoon in Aruba 30 years ago



Jim & Cathy are celebrating their 30th wedding anniversary. Aruba was not like it is now today but the people and beaches are still the same they say. A very lovely couple and this can be seen in this picture that I took last week. Wishing Jim & Cathy more years of happiness and thanks to come back to our island.

Happy New Year from the Francees Family



When we started our family many years ago I couldn't imagine that someday we will use drones for our family photo shoot. Back then in the 90's my friend Danny was and still is a pilot and had a sport plane and I used to hire him to shoot aerial photo shoots but not to take family photos. On behalf of my family, wife Ruth, my two sons Siegal and Shepherd and Siegal's girlfriend Iris, we are glad you choose Aruba for your vacation and wishing you all a happy and blessed 2019.

Boca Catalina, the best for photo shoots



If you like sailing and taking good shots of ships just like me, than you must go to Boca Catalina located in the area of Mal-mok. It's the best angle to get the best images of boats and ships like the amazing Jolley Pirates. You can jump over the cliff into the clear water and also get a fully tan of a brown/honey color on its little sandy beach. Boca Catalina is also a good option for snorkeling and see the beautiful underwater world just a few feet from the shore. Take some photos and tag me on instagram @stevefrancees so I can see them.

Black Stone Beach



There is something very unique about this beach. All the stones are rounded black lava stones and it is located under one of the island's natural bridges in the Arikok National Park. For this photo shoot we started 4am walking all over the north coastline from the area of the famous natural bridge, thru Andicuri coastline and beach till we reached Black Stone beach. The idea was to photograph the sunrise at Black Stone Beach and it was spectacular that day. The model is my niece Daniela also a professional photographer and since a year ago is a photo model in Chile.

SPORTS



Los Angeles Kings center Anze Kopitar, center, takes the puck as Edmonton Oilers right wing Tobias Rieder loses his stick during the second period of an NHL hockey game, Saturday, Jan. 5, 2019, in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

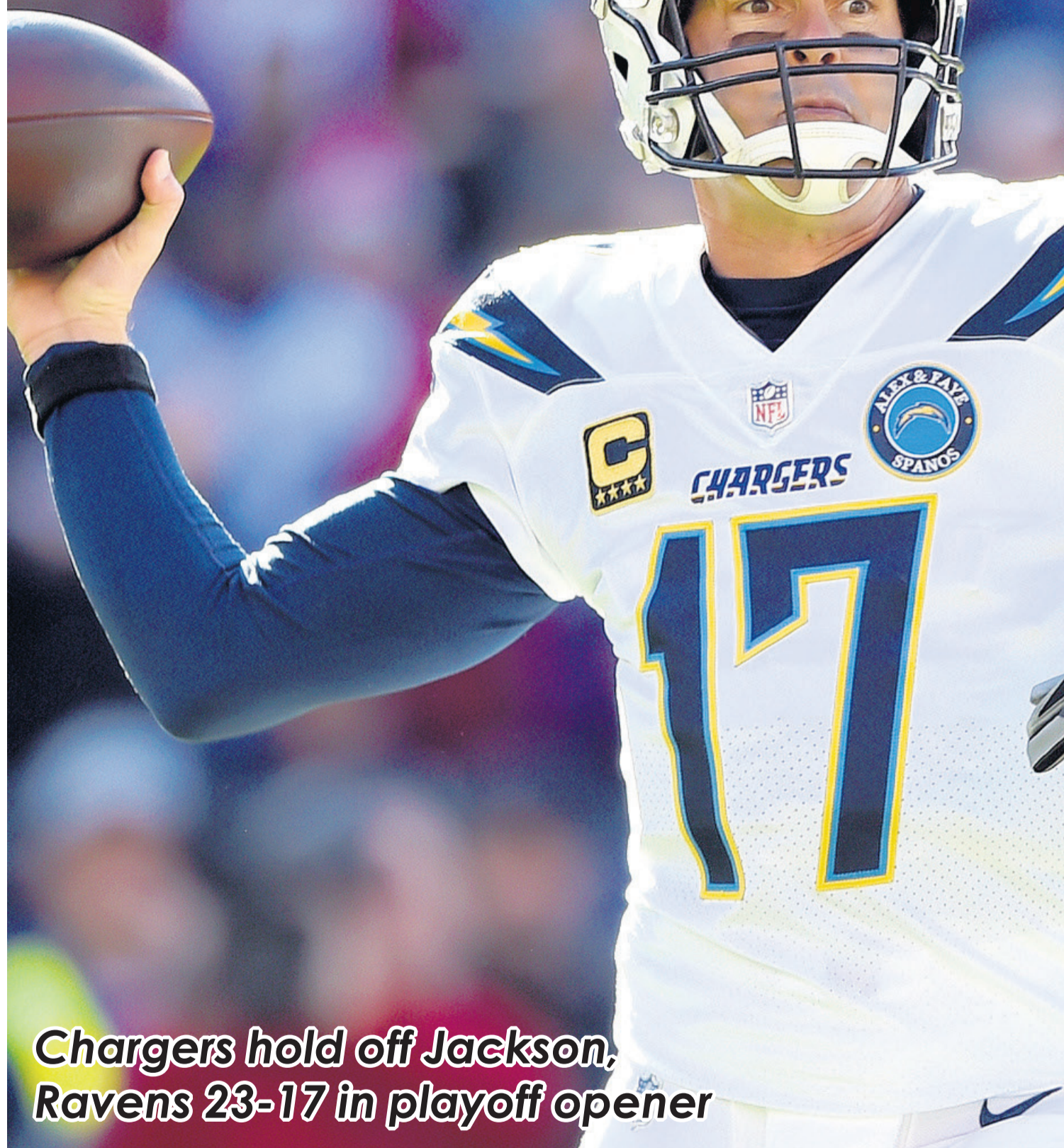
Quick, Kopitar hit 300th milestones, Kings rout Oilers 4-0

By GREG BEACHAM
AP Sports Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Jonathan Quick and Anze Kopitar have been teammates since they were drafted together 13½ years ago by the Los Angeles Kings, so the synchronicity of their milestone achievements Saturday night just felt right. And though 300 is a nice, round number, they were even more excited about a sharp win that propelled the Kings out of the NHL cellar. Quick earned his 300th victory and Kopitar scored his 300th goal while Los Angeles escaped last place in the overall league standings with a 4-0 win over the Edmonton Oilers. The Kings' captain and their longtime starting goalie were the foundation of two Stanley Cup championship teams in Los Angeles, where they've been on the NHL roster together since late 2008.

Continued on Page 19

Open Sesame



Chargers hold off Jackson, Ravens 23-17 in playoff opener

Los Angeles Chargers quarterback Philip Rivers throws a pass in the first half of an NFL wild card playoff football game against the Baltimore Ravens, Sunday, Jan. 6, 2019, in Baltimore.

Associated Press
Page 20

Los Angeles Kings vs. Edmonton Oilers

Continued from Page 18

A few minutes after Kopitar got his milestone goal in the third period, Quick finished up his own landmark win along with his 51st career shutout.

"Feels pretty good," said Kopitar, the fifth player to score 300 goals for the Kings. "I was hoping it was going to come a little bit earlier than that, but it's here, and I'm proud of that. ... It's great for Quickie. He's, in my mind, the best goalie in the world. It's very comforting to have him back there, and a privilege to play in front of him." Quick made 16 saves and combined with his defense to end the five-game scoring streaks of Edmonton stars Connor McDavid and Leon Draisaitl.

"As far as 300 wins, it's just a group of guys that I've been lucky enough to play with," Quick said. "Hopefully we keep going. We want to win some more games. For Kopi, that's awesome. He's more of a playmaker than a goal-scorer, so 300 goals, that's a lot."

Kyle Clifford, Tyler Toffoli and Jeff Carter scored during a dominant first period in the Kings' sixth win in nine games since mid-December. Mikko Koskinen yielded three goals on eight Kings shots before Cam Talbot replaced him in the first period for the Oilers.

Edmonton coach Ken Hitchcock castigated his team after its seventh loss in eight games.

"We had one player show up and play," Hitchcock said. "Darnell Nurse was our best player by a mile ... and that's all we had. We didn't compete. Their best players were their best players. We didn't compete. This is on everybody. When you have one player that competes at a high level in a game like this, it can't be acceptable. There's been too much of this go on in the first 41 games. We win one, and then we take our foot off the gas, and that's exactly what we did."

The poor first period was a rerun for the Oilers, who also struggled early against

Arizona on Wednesday before rallying to win.

"What has to change for us (is) we're a situation-motivated team," Hitchcock said. "I've only been here 20 games, and I see the situation motivates them. We lose, we get embarrassed, we get motivated, and that isn't a playoff team. That isn't a playoff attitude, and we have to change. But this can't be acceptable. ... I don't know what it is, but we'll figure it out."

All-Star Drew Doughty had two early assists for the Kings, who are on their first sustained stretch of strong play after languishing at the bottom of the league for much of the season.

With these two points, Los Angeles moved above Ottawa, Philadelphia and St. Louis while pulling even at the bottom of the Pacific Division with Arizona, albeit with more games played. They're small but vital movements for the Kings after a dismal first half of the season that included the firing of coach John Stevens. The Kings ranked 30th in the 31-team NHL with only 22 first-period goals before they got three more past the Oilers.

Clifford put the Kings up just 3:15 in when he took a pass at mid-ice, skated around Caleb Jones and flipped in his sixth goal. Toffoli scored after Doughty kept an Oilers turnover in the zone and set up the forward for only his second goal in 25 games. Carter then chased Koskinen with his eighth goal of the season.

NOTES: Kings F Carl Hagelin returned from a 20-game absence with a knee injury. The Swede played in only five games after Los Angeles acquired him from Pittsburgh in a trade for Tanner Pearson before getting hurt. ... Edmonton RW Alex Chiasson returned from a three-game absence with a sore knee. ... Oilers D Matt Benning was scratched for only the second time since Oct. 25. He left the road trip to attend his grandfather's funeral in Edmonton on Friday. Former Kings D Kevin Gravel took his spot in the Oilers' lineup. □



Los Angeles Kings center Anze Kopitar, left, and goaltender Jonathan Quick congratulate each other after an NHL hockey game against the Edmonton Oilers, Saturday, Jan. 5, 2019, in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

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Los Angeles Chargers vs. Baltimore Ravens

By **DAVID GINSBURG**
AP Sports Writer

BALTIMORE (AP) — The Los Angeles Chargers kept Lamar Jackson grounded, and by the time the rookie got the passing game going it was too late for the Baltimore Ravens.

Michael Badgley kicked five field goals, and Los Angeles harassed and hounded Jackson during a 23-17 victory Sunday in the opening round of the NFL playoffs.

The Chargers (13-4) will next face the second-seeded New England Patriots (11-5) on the road Sunday. The Chargers last won two games during a single postseason in 2007, when the franchise was in San Diego. Of course, going deep in the playoffs are old hat for the Patriots.

"Yeah, I mean, gosh, we know the run they've had,"



Los Angeles Chargers defensive end Melvin Ingram (54) celebrates after sacking Baltimore Ravens quarterback Lamar Jackson in the second half of an NFL wild card playoff football game, Sunday, Jan. 6, 2019, in Baltimore.

Chargers quarterback Philip Rivers said. "It seems like forever. They're always in these games and games beyond."

Rivers went 22 for 32 for 160 yards for Los Angeles, providing just enough offense to help the Chargers get even for a 22-10 loss to Bal-

timore (10-7) just two weeks ago.

Badgley set a franchise record for field goals in a playoff game. He connected from 21, 53, 40, 34 and 47 yards.

The Chargers built a 23-3 lead in the fourth quarter before Jackson threw two

touchdown passes to make it close. Given one final chance to complete the comeback, the 21-year-old looked every bit like the youngest quarterback to start an NFL playoff game when he lost the ball on his third fumble of the game. Jackson finished 14 for 29 for 194 yards with an interception. He was sacked seven times.

"I wasn't playing my game today. I'm ticked off about that, definitely," Jackson said.

The AFC North champion Ravens were making their first playoff appearance since 2014 after Jackson led the team on a 6-1 season-ending run following an injury to long-time starter Joe Flacco.

In the days leading up to the game, Jackson — the 2016 Heisman Trophy winner — was lauded for the

job he did to get Baltimore into the postseason. With the former Louisville star leading the way, the Ravens went on a tear by combining a time-consuming ground game with the league's top-ranked defense.

Jackson finished with 54 yards rushing, but he was booed by many in the crowd of 70, 432 after the Ravens fell behind by 20 points.

"They were looking for better in us," Jackson said. "We didn't perform well. It happens sometimes."

Jackson threw a 31-yard touchdown pass to Michael Crabtree to make it 23-10 with 6:33 remaining and tossed a 7-yarder to Crabtree with 1:59 left, but Baltimore's last chance ended when Jackson fumbled after being hit by Uchenna Nwosu. □

Messi scores, Barca beats Getafe to take 5-point lead at top



FC Barcelona's Luis Suarez celebrates after scoring during a Spanish La Liga soccer match between Getafe and FC Barcelona at the Alfonso Perez stadium in Getafe, Spain, Sunday, Jan. 6, 2019.

Associated Press

MADRID (AP) — Lionel Messi and Luis Suarez scored brilliant goals as Barcelona beat Getafe 2-1 on Sunday to increase its lead in the Spanish league.

Barcelona capitalized on slipups by its rivals earlier in the day to take a five-point lead over second-placed Atletico. Sevilla trails Barcelona by seven points in third place, and fifth-placed Real Madrid is 10 points behind, as the league reaches its midway point next round. Getafe started well but, as he so often does, Messi turned the

match around in the 20th minute when he pounced on a loose ball in the area, poked it between the legs of goalkeeper David Soria and slotted it home from a tight angle.

Suarez matched his teammate's effort in the 39th when he planted his left foot as a pivot and used his right leg to rifle the ball from the edge of the area into the corner of the net with a waist-high volley.

Messi leads the league with 16 goals, followed by Suarez in second place with 12. Messi came close to adding another goal late in

the match but was denied both times by Soria.

Getafe pulled one back through Jaime Mata just before halftime and the hosts had chances to draw level. But Barcelona goalkeeper Marc-Andre ter Stegen saved a powerful header by Leandro Cabrera before Mata squandered a golden opportunity in the 66th when he caught Ter Stegen off his line only to miss the open goal.

Getafe, which had conceded only four goals at home this season, remained in seventh place. □



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Garnett goes from small Missouri college to PGA Tour winner

By DOUG FERGUSON
AP Golf Writer

KAPALUA, Hawaii (AP) — Missouri Western State is not exactly a pipeline to the PGA Tour. Neither is Gallatin, Missouri, a farming community of 1,800 where Brice Garnett honed his game on a nine-hole course. Thirteen years ago, Garnett was finishing up his degree in business finance with every intention of working for a bank. "Never thought we'd be here, at Kapalua, playing the Tournament of Champions," Garnett said. About the only thing he has in common with the other 32 players in the field is winning on the PGA Tour. His victory was last March at the Corales Puntacana Resort & Club Championship in the Dominican Republic. What sets him apart is not the five years he spent on the Web.com Tour, or even the three years he spent driving across Texas on the Adams Tour in a Chevrolet Equinox his parents gave him for a graduation present. The PGA Tour is filled with players from big college



Brice Garnett plays his shot from the first tee during the second round of the Tournament of Champions golf event, Friday, Jan. 4, 2019, at Kapalua Plantation Course in Kapalua, Hawaii.

Associated Press

programs such as Alabama and Oklahoma State, Georgia and Texas. If they don't stay four years to get a degree, it's because they're already prepared to compete against the best in the world. Garnett is a rarity coming from a school like Missouri Western State, best known as the training camp for the Kansas City Chiefs. He competed against Troy Merritt at Winona State in Minnesota before Merritt — also

in the field at Kapalua — transferred to Boise State. William McGirt, who won the Memorial three years ago, played at Wofford, a Division I school in South Carolina known more for its academics than its golf program. "There's a lot of great Division II players that I've kept my eye on because I keep up with the guys back home," Garnett said. "You don't see a lot pushing through." He certainly didn't see him-

self doing that.

Garnett played mostly regional golf growing up in Gallatin, and he improved enough to dream about playing for the Missouri Tigers. He wrote the golf coach asking if there was room for him. He remembers the day the letter arrived in the mail.

"I got pulled out of class," he said. "My dad was there. My mom worked there as a teacher. I went to the principal's office because the letter got mailed back to the school. They all came out to get the good news. The coach wrote on there: 'Congratulations on a great junior and high school career, but our team is full. You're welcome to walk on.'

"I pinned that up in my room in college, used that as motivation."

It wasn't until his junior year that Garnett got going, winning 12 times over his last two seasons for the Griffons. Still, this was Missouri Western State. The All-Americans that year included Dustin Johnson and Billy Horschel. "I had no

plans to turn pro until Christmas of my senior year, and Dad brought it to my attention that he might get some money behind me," Garnett said. He started on the Adams Tour and worked his way up to the Web.com Tour, where he made only four cuts. Then, it was back to the mini-tours. He was playing in the Carolinas and qualifying for Web.com Tour events when he could and planning for Q-school when his father suggested he fly to Nashville, Tennessee, for another Monday qualifier.

"Man, I was tired," Garnett said. "He said, 'It's \$90, go do it.' I got in the tournament and ended up getting second."

That got him full status, and two years later he did well enough to make it to the PGA Tour. Three years later, he was back on the Web. But he won twice in 2017 to get his PGA Tour card again, and the 35-year-old finally cashed in with his victory in the Dominican Republic, held opposite a World Golf Championship. It's not impossible. □



Kei Nishikori of Japan plays a shot during his final match against Daniil Medvedev of Russia at the Brisbane International tennis tournament in Brisbane, Australia, Sunday, Jan. 6, 2019.

Associated Press

Associated Press — Kei Nishikori won his first BRISBANE, Australia (AP) ATP title since Memphis in

Nishikori, Pliskova win Brisbane International titles

2016 with a dominating final set to beat Daniil Medvedev 6-4, 3-6, 6-2 in the Brisbane International final on Sunday.

The 2014 U.S. Open finalist served for the match at 5-1 in the third set, but Medvedev earned a temporary reprieve when he broke the Japanese player's serve to extend the match. But Nishikori, who had lost nine consecutive ATP finals over 52 tour-

naments in nearly three years, broke the Russian player's serve on four consecutive points in the final game to clinch the match in just 2 hours, 6 minutes, at Pat Rafter Arena.

Earlier, Karolina Pliskova won her second Brisbane title, beating Lesia Tsurenko 4-6, 7-5, 6-2 after coming within just two points of defeat.

Serving for the title at 5-4 Sunday, Tsurenko lost 13

straight points. It came after Tsurenko rolled her ankle in the second game of the deciding set.

Tsurenko was 4-0 in her previous WTA finals. Pliskova won her first Brisbane title two years ago. Pliskova improved her record in Brisbane to 13-2 and joined Victoria Azarenka (2009, 2016) and Serena Williams (2013-14) as the third woman to win the tournament twice. □

Alabama-Clemson IV: Can Saban's dynasty reach new heights?

By **RALPH D. RUSSO**

**AP College Football Writer
SAN JOSE, Calif. (AP)** —

Alabama coach Nick Saban and Clemson coach Dabo Swinney went through the familiar routine Sunday.

Joint news conference, during which Swinney does most of the talking. Saban compliments Swinney's Tigers. Swinney compliments Saban's unprecedented run with the Crimson Tide. Handshake. Pose for a picture with a trophy. They have done this drill four straight seasons in the College Football Playoff.

Alabama-Clemson IV, the third meeting with the national championship on the line, will be played Monday night at Levi's Stadium in Santa Clara, California.

Tide vs. Tigers might be getting old for some fans, but the latest chapter is a feature not a bug in the five-year-old playoff to Swinney.

"I think the objective is to get the two best teams," Swinney said. "If that's not best for college football, then why did we even do it?"

For the first time the College Football Playoff championship game features two unbeaten teams. The top-ranked Tide (14-0) or No. 2 Tigers (14-0) will become the first 15-0 FBS champion in college football's poll era, dating back to the first AP rankings in 1936.

Saban and Alabama are already in the midst of the most impressive run in the



Alabama head coach Nick Saban and Clemson head coach Dabo Swinney pose with the trophy at a news conference for the NCAA college football playoff championship game Sunday, Jan. 6, 2019, in Santa Clara, Calif.

college football history, with five national championships since 2009. If not for a last-second loss to Clemson in the 2016 championship game, the Tide would be shooting for three straight playoff titles. Alabama won a thriller against Clemson for the 2015 title. Saban has six national championships total, including a BCS crown he won with LSU in 2003. One more breaks a tie with Alabama great Bear Bryant for the most by any coach.

"I don't ever even think about that at all," said Saban, who is in his 12th season at Alabama and 23rd overall as a college head coach. "I do think a lot about trying to make and

help this team to be the best possible — and to put them in the best possible position to have a chance to be successful."

A case can be made that Saban has already surpassed Bryant, who was at Alabama for 25 years. The current Alabama dynasty is stacking up championships despite the constraints of scholarship limits and against competition bolstered by a deeper talent pool and more national exposure.

"You're talking about a program that I have a deep love and respect for, always have, always will, and a coach that's — I mean, he's won six national championships and the lev-

el of consistency is a model and an aspiration for every program," said Swinney, who was a walk-on receiver for Alabama's 1992 national title team coached by Gene Stallings.

Swinney and Clemson have come closest to reaching the Alabama standard. A second national championship in three seasons would give Clemson three overall (1981, 2016) and put Swinney in prestigious company. Among the Hall of Fame coaches with two national championships are Bobby Bowden of Florida State and Joe Paterno of Penn State.

Saban's accomplishments have pretty much settled the question of greatest

Associated Press

college football coach. He might be better compared to coaches in other sports such as UCLA's John Wooden, who won 10 NCAA men's basketball championships; Pat Summitt, who won eight NCAA women's basketball titles with Tennessee; Geno Auriemma, who has 11 women's basketball championships at Connecticut; and Dan Gable, who led Iowa wrestling to 17 NCAA championships.

Alabama's dominance has been defined by almost monotonous excellence. None of Saban's teams stand out. They are similarly stellar, machine-like in their efficiency. This team has a chance to separate from the rest. Alabama can become just the third wire-to-wire No. 1 in the AP poll, joining 1999 Florida State and 2004 Southern California.

The biggest difference in this Tide team is Tua Tagovailoa, who came off the bench as a freshman to beat Georgia in last season's championship game. For the first time, Saban has a star quarterback. Alabama has rolled through its opponents by an average of 31 points.

"His accuracy, his athletic ability, his ability to improvise," Clemson defensive coordinator Brent Venables said of Tagovailoa. "He's got the best players on the planet around him at every position, and they're two and three deep." □

Sheriff: Soccer star Rooney charged with public intoxication



This undated photo provided by the Loudoun County Sheriff's Office shows Wayne Rooney.

Associated Press

**Associated Press
LOUDON COUNTY, Va.**

(AP) — Soccer star Wayne Rooney was arrested last month at a Washington-area airport on a charge of public intoxication, authorities said Sunday.

The Loudoun County Sheriff's Office in Virginia said Rooney was jailed Dec. 16 after his arrest on the misdemeanor charge by police at the Dulles International Airport in Virginia and then released on his own recognizance. The sheriff's office

released a mugshot from his booking that showed Rooney in what appeared to be an orange jail jumpsuit.

The sheriff's office referred further questions to airport authorities. An airport spokesman said he was looking into what happened.

It wasn't immediately clear what led to the arrest, but Rooney appeared to have been traveling in the days beforehand. He posted a picture on his verified Ins-

tagram account on Dec. 14 in an airplane seat and said he was traveling to an auto race in Saudi Arabia. Before coming to play in the U.S. this year, Rooney, 33, starred for Manchester United in the English Premier League. His 208 career goals make him the league's second all-time scorer. He was also the all-time leading scorer for England's national team.

When he joined Washington-based D.C. United, he became the latest in a

series of European stars to play for U.S.-based Major League Soccer late in their careers. He helped the team reach the playoffs last year.

The Washington-based team said in a statement that it was aware of news reports of the arrest, but declined further comment. "We understand the media's interest in this matter but we believe this is a private matter for Wayne that D.C. United will handle internally," the team said. □

South Africa wins 2nd test, seals series against Pakistan

By GERALD IMRAY

Associated Press

CAPE TOWN, South Africa

(AP) — Armed with a four-man fast-bowling attack that has a strong claim to be the best in the world, South Africa won the second test and the series against Pakistan by making the 41 runs it needed on the morning of the fourth day on Sunday.

South Africa's batsmen completed a nine-wicket win and a seventh straight series success at home, a comfortable victory set up once again by the Proteas' pacemen, who very nearly made both of the opening two tests of the series three-day affairs.

The match at Newlands only went 47 minutes into the fourth day, when South Africa cruised to 43-1 in its second innings to finish the job.

Pakistan has failed to reach 200 in three of its four innings so far in the series with South Africa's attack, boasting top-ranked test bowler Kagiso Rabada, a fit-again Dale Steyn, and newcomer Duanne Olivier, bullying the Pakistan batsmen.

South Africa cranked it up



South African Captain Faf du Plessis in action on day four of the second cricket test match between South Africa and Pakistan at Newlands Cricket Ground in Cape Town, South Africa, Sunday, Jan. 6, 2019.

even further in Cape Town by adding Vernon Philander and making it an all-out pace attack, with spinner Keshav Maharaj not needed for the second test and left out.

"I think if you talk about our bowling and their bowling, there's a big difference," Pakistan captain Sarfraz Ahmed said. "There's a difference in pace."

Even though Pakistan also

has a promising group of fast bowlers, Sarfraz said they couldn't match the out-and-out speed of the South Africans.

It wasn't quite as simple with the bat as South Africa was hoping for on Sunday morning. The Proteas lost stand-in opener Theunis de Bruyn for 4 and Hashim Amla retired hurt on 2 after being hit on the right arm by a bouncer before they

reached the modest target.

De Bruyn was opening in place of Aiden Markram, who was injured fielding on the third day.

Still, South Africa got there, with opener Dean Elgar 24 not out and captain Faf du Plessis — man of the match for a first-innings century — 3 not out. It gave South Africa a 2-0 lead in the three-test contest.

Associated Press

The final test in Johannesburg starts on Friday and there's likely to be no letup from South Africa's bowlers there, with Johannesburg's Wanderers traditionally one of the country's quickest pitches.

"We have nothing to lose. We just have to play a positive game," Sarfraz said.

The victory at Newlands also took South Africa's record to 10 victories in 14 tests and 10 wins out of 12 at home since coach Otis Gibson — a man who appreciates fast bowling more than any other facet — was appointed in late 2017.

"Not too long ago we were (ranked) No. 7 in the world and we lost a few test matches and weren't playing as well as we liked and we said home matches and home series, we need to take care of them," South Africa captain du Plessis said.

Gibson has taken South Africa on just one overseas test tour, though, where the Proteas were whitewashed 2-0 on slow, turning surfaces in Sri Lanka.

"There lies the challenge in being better at touring," du Plessis said. □

Austrian Hirscher gets 30th career World Cup slalom win

By ERIC WILLEMSSEN

Associated Press

ZAGREB, Croatia (AP) —

Marcel Hirscher returned to winning ways Sunday, triumphing in the first men's World Cup slalom of 2019 after he had missed the podium in the last two races.

The seven-time overall champion trailed Austrian teammate Marco Schwarz after the opening leg but posted the fastest time in the final run before Schwarz straddled a gate and failed to finish.

"It was today definitely not the easiest victory I have made so far," said Hirscher, who has won 10 of the last 12 slaloms. "But in the end of the day I am super, super happy. It was quite a hard day of work."

It was Hirscher's 64th ca-



Austria's Marco Schwarz competes during an alpine ski, men's World Cup slalom in Zagreb, Croatia, Sunday, Jan. 6, 2019.

Associated Press

reer win and 30th in the discipline. Only Sweden's Ingemar Stenmark (40) and Italy's Alberto Tomba (35) have won more men's slalom races.

Hirscher rarely misses out on a podium in consecu-

five races. The last time he didn't make the podium in three straight races was in February 2016.

After placing 26th in the last slalom of 2018 in Italy and starting the new calendar year by placing seventh in

the city event in Oslo, he spoke of "a mini-crisis."

His focus on winning is so big, that he calls finishing 26th or even seventh a "DNF," a did-not-finish.

"After finishing two races with a DNF, it is nice to be back in the finish area with another 100 points. The last two races not scoring points was not fun, it was making me nervous, even after all those years," he said, adding that "the people in Austria want to see me winning, or at least on the podium."

And Hirscher was fast to acknowledge that Sunday's win had "not really" ended his doubts.

"The feeling is a little bit weird with the changing conditions we have this year," Hirscher said. "It is

hard to find the right set-up for each terrain and for every condition."

Alexis Pinturault of France was 0.60 seconds behind Hirscher in second, and Manuel Feller of Austria was another 0.02 further behind in third for his first career slalom podium.

Pinturault returned to a slalom podium for the first time since winning in Wengen, Switzerland, five years ago.

"I had troubles finding my best level and with my skis and the setup. These were really hard years," said the Frenchman, adding he had put more focus on slalom training again last summer. Schwarz's half-time lead and Feller's third-place finish underlined the depth of the Austrian technical team. □

Weather Channel app accused of selling users' personal data

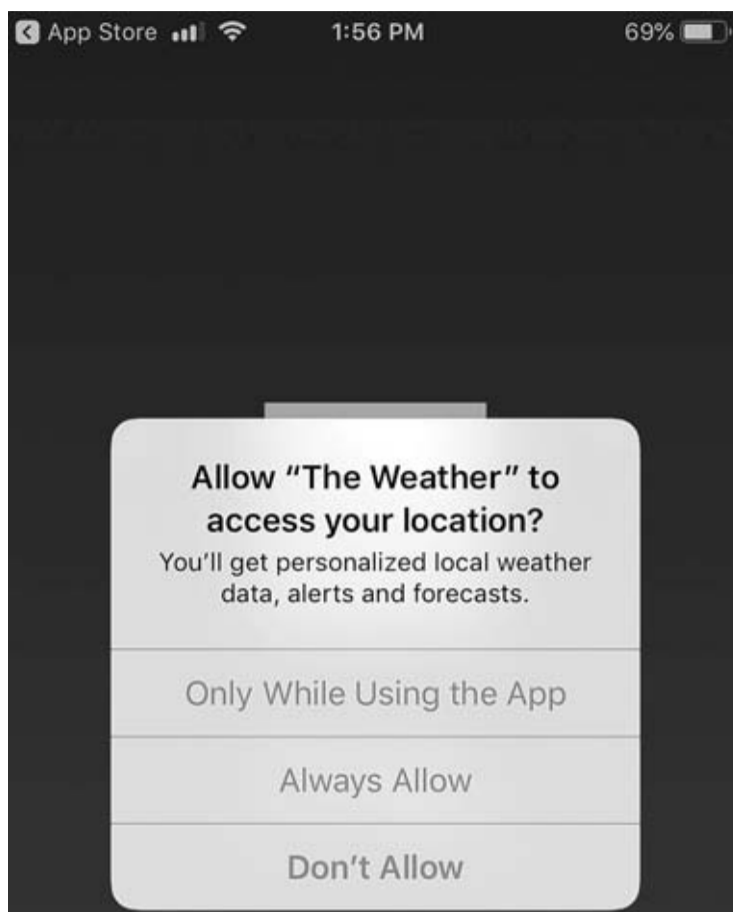
By **BRIAN MELLEY**

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — People relied on the most popular mobile weather app to make plans and figure out how to dress for the elements, but its owners used it to track their every step and profit off that information, Los Angeles prosecutors said Friday.

The operator of The Weather Channel mobile app misled users who agreed to share their location information in exchange for personalized forecasts and alerts, and they instead unwittingly surrendered personal privacy when the company sold their data to third parties, City Attorney Michael Feuer said.

Feuer sued the app's operator in Los Angeles County Superior Court to stop the practice. He said 80 percent of users agreed to it because the company had intentionally obscured disclosures on how it uses geolocation data within a 10,000-word privacy policy.



A mobile phone with The Weather Channel app location preference page is seen Friday, Jan. 4, 2019.

Associated Press

"Think how Orwellian it feels to live in a world where a private company is tracking potentially every place you go, every minute of every day," Feuer said. "If you

want to sacrifice to that company that information, you sure ought to be doing it with clear advanced notice of what's at stake."

A spokesman for IBM Corp., which owns the app, said it has always been clear about the use of location data collected from users and will vigorously defend its "fully appropriate" disclosures.

Marketed as the "world's most downloaded weather app," The Weather Channel app claims it has approximately 45 million users a month, the lawsuit said.

Feuer said operators of the app, TWC Product and Technology LLC, sold data to at least a dozen websites for targeted ads and to hedge funds that used the information to analyze consumer behavior. Feuer said he learned about the sale of the private data from an article in The New York Times.

The lawsuit seeks to stop the company from the practice it calls "unfair and

fraudulent" and seeks penalties of up to \$2,500 for each violation.

It comes as companies, most notably Facebook and Google, are increasingly under fire for how they use people's personal data. Both companies faced congressional hearings last year on privacy issues, which are likely to remain on lawmakers and regulators' minds both nationally and in California.

In June, California lawmakers approved what experts are calling the country's most far-reaching law to give people more control over their personal data online. That law doesn't take effect until next year. Feuer said he hopes the case inspires other lawsuits and legislation to curb data-sharing practices.

IBM bought the app along with the digital assets of The Weather Company in 2015 for \$2 billion but did not acquire The Weather Channel seen on TV, which is owned by another company. □

For Ghana e-waste recyclers, a safer option amid toxic fumes

By **NEIL SHAW**

Associated Press

ACCRA, Ghana (AP) — On any given day, plumes of noxious smoke rise above the Agbogbloshie dump site in Ghana's capital, Accra. The billowing black smoke comes from the many informal e-waste recyclers who take unwanted electronics, strip them of their cables and burn away the protective covers to reach the valuable copper beneath.

It's a dangerous way to make a living, but an easily available one for the many unskilled workers arriving in search of money to get by. Ghana imports about 150,000 tons of second-hand electronics a year, according to a 2011 study coordinated under the Basel Convention, a global treaty on hazardous waste. Like many of the informal e-waste recyclers picking through the trash that comes largely from Europe and North America, Amin Idris comes from northern



In this Nov. 26, 2018, photo, a man uses a wire-stripping machine to get to the copper and other metals in discarded electronic cables in Accra, Ghana.

Associated Press

Ghana. After too many lungfuls of the acrid air, he decided to change his approach. "When I used to burn these cables, I felt ill," he said. "That's why I stopped burning and started bringing cables in here." He stood at a wire-stripping machine at Green Advocacy Ghana, a non-governmental organization that operates inside the Agbogbloshie dump. For a fee ranging from 2 to 10 U.S. cents per pound of

metal, electrical cables are fed through blades that slit open the plastic, making it easy to reach the copper or other metal wires inside. "When I strip cables here, it looks much better than burnt copper, and we'll get higher prices for this stripped copper" Idris said. Bennett Nana Akuffo has run Green Advocacy Ghana for more than three years. "Every month, every year, we keep on getting more and more people. It's

a slow process and the people we are dealing with, for want of a better word, they are sometimes difficult to accept change," Nana Akuffo said. "So it's been a slow and gradual process." The Environmental Protection Agency is Ghana's main environmental regulator. "The law prohibits open burning of waste, in any form or shape. This includes electronic waste," Principal Program Officer Larry Kotoe said.

"Having said that, we are not saying the e-waste recyclers shouldn't burn but rather that this predominantly informal sector should be transformed. The law is seeking to rebuild their capacity, retool them, so that they can safely dismantle e-waste."

While only Green Advocacy Ghana is currently active on the ground in the Agbogbloshie dump, the German government in partnership with Ghana's government is building a health clinic and e-waste

recycling training center due to open there in early 2019. For professor Julius Fobil with the University of Ghana, more community participation from the start would make a project like Green Advocacy Ghana more effective. Environmental literacy among the informal workers "is currently very low," he said.

Fobil is concluding a long-term study of the health effects on e-waste recyclers at Agbogbloshie. He carried out blood and urine tests on a group of e-waste workers between 2016 and 2018.

They "tend to have difficulties breathing," he said. "Ailments range from minor coughs to complicated health problems like COPD. That's chronic obstructive pulmonary diseases. We are also seeing that some of them are susceptible to long-term exposure like the increase of cancers — cancer due to exposure to some of these complex chemicals." □

US employers went on a surprising hiring spree in December

By JOSH BOAK
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. employers went on a hiring spree in December, adding a surprising 312,000 jobs and providing a dose of reassurance about the economy after a turbulent few months on Wall Street. The job gains reported Friday by the Labor Department came despite a trade war with China, a global slowdown and a partial government shutdown now entering its third week.

The nation's unemployment rate rose slightly to 3.9 percent last month, but that, too, was considered a positive sign, reflecting an increase in Americans beginning to look for work. And average hourly pay improved 3.2 percent from a year ago.

Stocks surged on the news, along with word that the U.S. and China will hold trade talks next week and comments from Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell that the Fed will be flexible in judging whether to raise interest rates further. The Dow Jones industrial average shot up 747 points, or 3.3 percent.

President Donald Trump called the job growth "GREAT" on Twitter.



In this Nov. 2, 2017, file photo a recruiter from the postal service, right, speaks with an attendee of a job fair in the cafeteria of Deer Lakes High School in Cheswick, Pa.

The torrid hiring in December far outstripped the 180,000 jobs investors had been anticipating and could help ease fears that the economy's expansion — now in the middle of its 10th year — may be coming to an end.

"The labor market is very strong even though the economy appears to be slowing," said Eric Winograd, senior U.S. economist at the investment management firm AllianceBernstein. "Those two things cannot

coexist for very long. Either weakening demand will lead firms to dial back the pace of hiring or the robust pace of hiring will lead firms to ramp back up production."

In recent weeks, financial markets have plunged amid concerns that the U.S. could be in a recession by 2020. The Dow suffered its worst December since the middle of the Depression in 1931.

Major companies such as Apple say their sales are

being jeopardized by the tariff war between Washington and Beijing, and an important gauge of U.S. manufacturing posted its steepest decline in a decade Thursday.

China, the world's second-largest economy, is also mired in a slowdown, its consumers losing much of their appetite for real estate, iPhones, Ford vehicles and jewelry from Tiffany & Co.

The U.S. government shutdown and Trump's attacks

on the Fed and its chairman over the central bank's rate increases have also worried investors, though Powell may have eased some of those concerns Friday when he stressed that he would not resign if the president told him to do so. The strong job growth suggests employers believe U.S. consumer spending will stay robust.

Health care and education added 82,000 jobs last month, the largest jump in nearly nine years. Restaurants and drinking places posted a net gain of 40,700 jobs. Builders added 38,000 construction jobs, while manufacturers increased their payrolls by 32,000 workers.

Businesses are still searching for more workers.

Fresh Coat Painters, based in Cincinnati, plans to nearly double the 300 employees who paint homes and businesses as it expands this year across this country. The franchiser is also launching an apprenticeship program to attract workers, in addition to providing higher pay and benefits.

Tara Riley, president of Fresh Coat, said that franchise owners are having to actively search for workers instead of simply posting ads. □

Investors, farmers guessing as shutdown delays crop reports

By SCOTT McFETRIDGE
Associated Press

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) — The U.S. Department of Agriculture announced Friday that it must delay the release of key crop reports due to the partial government shutdown, leaving investors and farmers without vital information during an already tumultuous time for agricultural markets.

The USDA had planned to release the closely watched reports Jan. 11 but said that even if the shutdown ended immediately, the agency's staff wouldn't have time to release the reports as scheduled. Congressional leaders met with President Donald Trump on Friday but there



In this Nov. 21, 2018, file photo, Justin Roth holds a handful of soybeans at the Brooklyn Elevator in Brooklyn, Iowa.

were no indications the shutdown would end soon. "The longer it goes on, the more distorted our reference points get," said grain market analyst Todd Hultman, of Omaha, Nebraska-based agriculture market

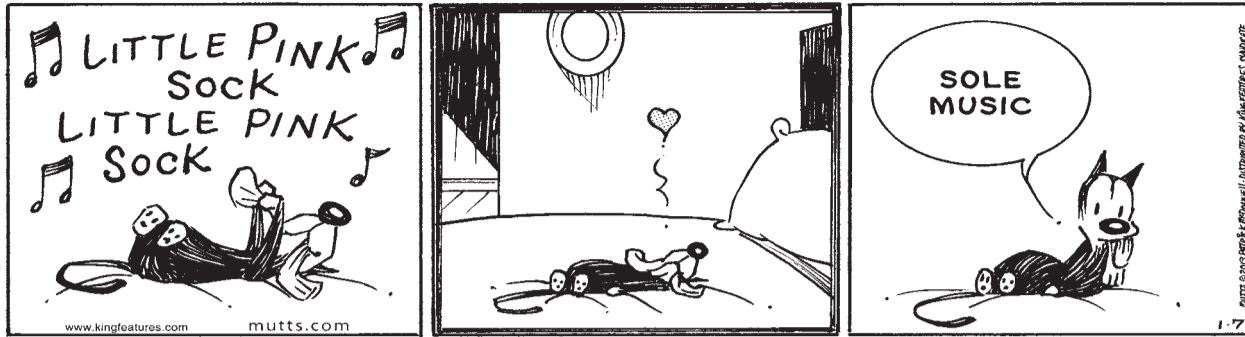
data provider DTN. "It's a lot of guesswork."

The reports detail the size of the 2018 harvests of corn, soybean, wheat and other crops and give an early estimate for what farmers will plant in the upcoming

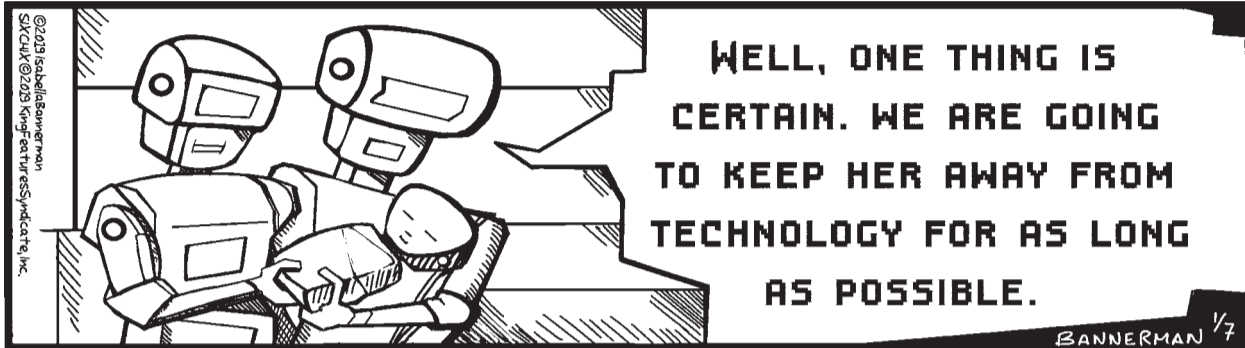
season. Depending on the estimates, the price of the commodities can rise or fall as they show the current supply and forecast how many acres will be devoted to different crops in the coming months. The government shutdown has now forced the delay of such reports for two weeks, and uncertainty about the commodity supply will only grow as more time elapses, Hultman said. USDA reports provide the foundation for understanding the U.S. agricultural industry, and because they also estimate farm production in other countries, they are essential for understanding global crop markets. Although the government is still re-

leasing some information, such as the Labor Department's monthly jobs report, the USDA hasn't released key reports since Dec. 22. This includes the closely watched World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates report and information about specific crops, such as winter wheat and canola seedings. The lack of information comes amid the uncertainty of trade with China, where tariffs led to an abrupt drop in U.S. agricultural exports to the country. There were indications that China was beginning to resume at least limited purchases of U.S. crops, but because of the government shutdown it's unclear what's happening. □

Mutts



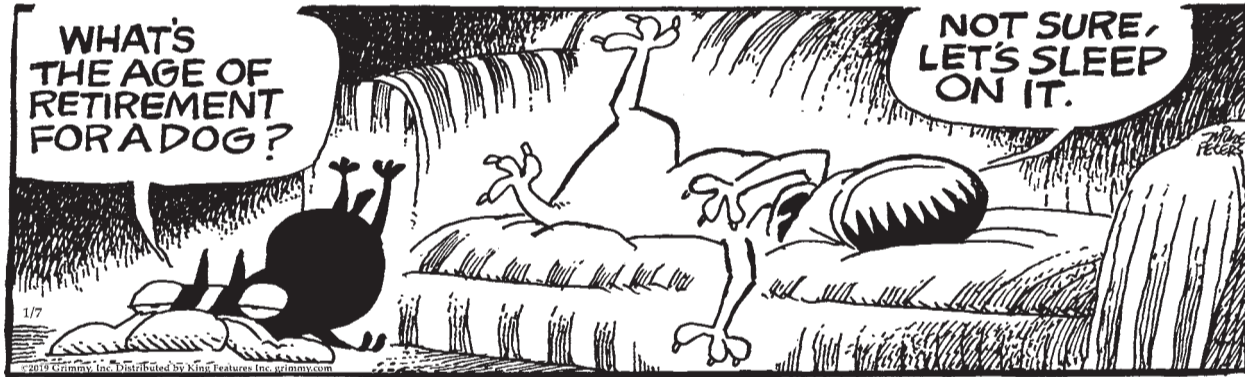
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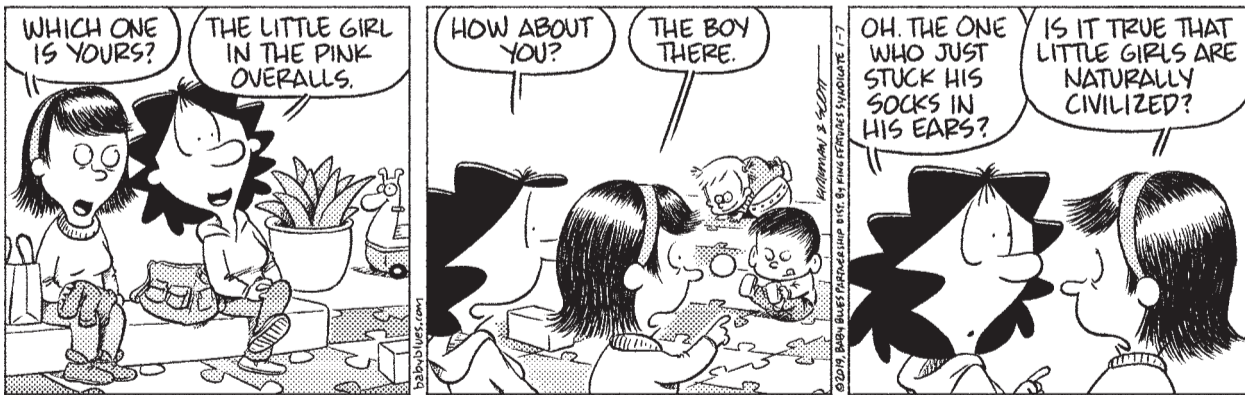
Blondie



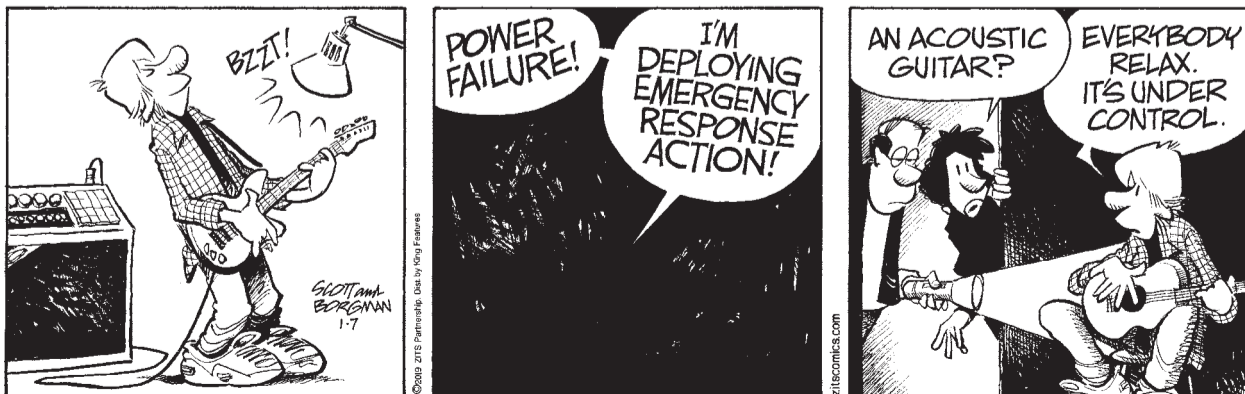
Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

2								8
		8		7				9 6
	7			6 8				
7	3	8				6		
8	4	6		1	9			2
		1			4 3			5
			3 5				4	
3 9				8		2		
4								7

Difficulty Level ★ 1/07

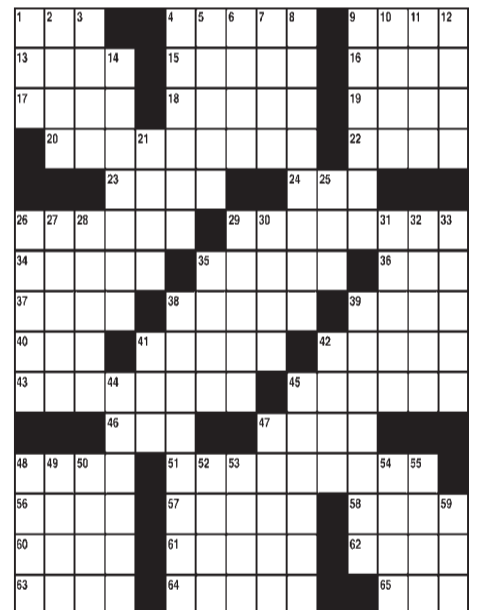
Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Saturday's puzzle answer

5	7	9	6	2	1	8	3	4
4	8	1	5	7	3	6	9	2
6	3	2	9	4	8	7	1	5
1	9	3	8	6	4	5	2	7
2	5	4	3	9	7	1	6	8
7	6	8	1	5	2	9	4	3
8	4	7	2	1	9	3	5	6
9	2	6	7	3	5	4	8	1
3	1	5	4	8	6	2	7	9

ACROSS

- 1 Opponent
- 4 In the ___ luxury; very wealthy
- 9 Recedes
- 13 No ifs, ands, or ___
- 15 "___ of Two Cities"
- 16 Kauai feast
- 17 Dermatitis symptom
- 18 Black-and-white animal
- 19 Clinton's 1996 opponent
- 20 Outrageously bold
- 22 Black-___ peas
- 23 Yank
- 24 "...the season to be jolly..."
- 26 Tension
- 29 Currier and Ives, e.g.
- 34 Entire
- 35 Injury
- 36 Feel sorry about
- 37 Fighting force
- 38 Part of a fork
- 39 Brazilian soccer great
- 40 ___ culpa
- 41 Buckets
- 42 Ran fast
- 43 Large necklace danglers
- 45 Cream puff or éclair
- 46 St. Joan of ___
- 47 Pantry stackables
- 48 First man
- 51 Largest Spanish-speaking nation
- 56 Malay prince
- 57 24 ___ gold
- 58 ___ off; dozens
- 60 Sleep rugged rock
- 61 Uneven
- 62 Stare
- 63 In this very place
- 64 Stitched
- 65 Witch's spell



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews 1/7/19

Saturday's Puzzle Solved

GOT	ALOHA	GRIT
COVE	DAVES	LINE
EYED	OVERSPENDS	
EAR	FRANS	ANDYS
PARES	RUN	
HOAXES	BOSSSES	
UPSET	ALICE	UPA
LESS	CREAK	SCAR
ARE	FACTS	FEAST
ASSETS	REALMS	
PAS	TEARY	
ISAAC	SHEAR	PSI
CORRESPOND	STAR	
ELMS	RINSE	HUGE
DOSE	SNEER	ESS

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DOWN

- 1 J. Edgar Hoover's agcy.
- 2 Pitcher's delights
- 3 Run-down; shabby
- 4 Judge's order
- 5 Breakfast choice
- 6 Temporary
- 7 Golf term
- 8 Angry speech
- 9 Wreak havoc on
- 10 Was out of breath
- 11 Actor Christian
- 12 Hauled into court
- 14 Curvaceous
- 21 Think deeply
- 25 South Bend's state; abbr.
- 26 Wetland
- 27 Midafternoon
- 28 Word with numerals or Catholic
- 29 Swimming spots
- 30 Gallops
- 31 Standing straight
- 32 King or emperor
- 47 Stop
- 48 Part of the foot
- 49 Show courage
- 50 Slightly open
- 52 Seldom seen
- 53 Get bigger
- 54 Actor Wyle
- 55 Carving tool
- 59 Male or female

Classifieds

CASA DEL MAR FOR SALE
 week 1 Presidential Unit #1313
 2 Br, 2 Bath, Ocean view,
 Sleeps 6
 \$14,900
 E-mail gkoon2@gmail.com

210447

RENAISSANCE ARUBA Timeshare
 one bedroom sunset view
 week 1 unit 2344 \$9,350
 Contact:
 arubarenowner@gmail.com

210476

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 2 Bedroom/2 Bath
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 Wk 2/1113 - (\$16,000)
 Wks 5 & 6/1315 (\$18,000/wk)
 Wks 5 & 6/1521 (\$20,000/wk)
 Wk 7/1308 (\$18,000)
 Wks 7 & 8/1408 (\$18,000)
 Wk 8/1113 (\$17,000)
 Wk 8/1409 (\$17,000)
 CDMOwner@gmail.com
 U.S. (860) 649-9639

210601

Halley Time Travel

Divi Village
 1 BR WK # 52 Room# 3308
 25 Weeks remain \$12,000
 1 BR WK# 1 Room# 5501
 24 weeks remain \$ 11,000

Divi Vilage
 Studio WK# 52 Room#6304
 20 Weeks remain \$ 9000
 Studio WK # 1 Room# 8201
 23 Weeks remain \$8000

Divi Links Golf
 Studio Week # 2 Room # 4205
 24 weeks remain \$7500
 1 BR WK # 3 Room #4102
 24 weeks remain \$8500

Divi Links Golf
 1 BR WK # 51&52 Room# 2106
 35 weeks remain \$ 13,000 Each
 2 BR WK # 3 Room # 4215/4216
 28 weeks remain \$25,000

Marriott Ocean Club
 1 BR Platinum Ocean View \$13,000
 1 BR Platinum Ocean Front \$18,000
 2 BR Platinum Ocean View \$ 17,000
 2 BR Platinum Ocean Front \$ 26,000

Marriott Surf Club
 Platinum Plus
 2 BR WK# 51 & 52 Ocean Front \$ 150,000
 2 BR WK #51 Ocean View \$ 45 ,000
 2 BR WK# 52 Ocean View \$ 49 ,000

Marriott Surf Club
 Platinum
 2 BR Garden View \$15,000
 2 BR Ocean View \$ 18,000
 2 BR Ocean Side \$19,000
 2 BR Ocean Front \$26,000
 3 BR Ocean View \$18,000

House For Sale Esmeralda
 4 Bedroom , 3 Bath
 1 Appartment ,Pool
 Full Furnish , AC,
 5 Min from Palm Beach
 \$425,000

Aruba Divi Phoenix
 1 BR WK # 1 & 2 in Building # 6
 4th Floor Pool / Ocean View
 34 weeks remain on the contract
 \$36 K Both

Divi Links Golf
 1 BR WK # 1 & 2 Room # 2252
 32 weeks remain on each \$ 10,000 Each
 Studio WK # 5 & 6 Room #2123
 25 and 30 weeks remain on the contract
 \$17,000 Both Weeks

Aruba Divi Phoenix
 2 BR Penthouse WK # 1 Room # 672
 28 weeks remain \$35,000
 1 BR WK # 6 Room #209
 28 weeks remain \$12,500
 1 BR WK # 8 Room # 8 Room #644
 29 weeks remain \$16,500

Dutch Village
 Studio WK # 52 Room #117
 18 weeks remain \$7000
 Divi Links Golf
 1 BR WK #4 & 5 Room #2122
 25 & 30 Weeks remain \$9000
 Each

Divi Links Golf
 1 BR WK # 4 Room #2206
 20 weeks remain \$9000
 1 BR WK#1 Room#4208 27 WK remain \$8000
Divi Village
 studio wk # 6 Room # 5508
 22 Weeks remain \$ 8000

La Cabana B & C
 1 BR WK 52 4th Floor
 Pool/ Ocean View
 Saturday Check in \$11,000
 Tropicana Resorts
 1 BR WK # 51 & 52 Room # 1556
 Waterval View \$25,000 Both weeks

House For Sale Catiri
 3 Bedroom , 2 Bath \$260 K
 Ponton
 4 Bedroom , 3 Bath 1 Appartment
 Pool \$ 370K

House For Sale Savaneta
 4 Bedroom , 3 Bath
 Property Land 2000m2 \$220K
 Savaneta Property Land
 1050 m2 \$120K

House For Rent
 Opal 5 Min walk from Palm Beach
 3 Bedroom , 2 1/2 Bath
 Comunity Pool \$450 Per Night

 Hospital
 527 4000
 Imsan- San Nicolas
 524 8833

DOCTOR ON DUTY

Oranjestad

San Nicolas

PHARMACY ON DUTY

Oranjestad:
 Del Pueblo Tel. 582 1253
 San Nicolas
 San Nicolas Tel. 584 5712

OTHER

Dental Clinic 587 9850
 Blood Bank Aruba 587 0002
 Mobility Equip . Gire 568 5165
 Urgent Care 586 0448

EMERGENCY

Police	100
Oranjestad	527 3140
Noord	527 3200
Sta. Cruz	527 2900
San Nicolas	584 5000
Police Tipline	11141
Ambulancia	
Fire Dept.	115
Red Cross	582 2219

TAXI SERVICES

Taxi Tas	587 5900
Prof. Taxi	588 0035
Taxi D.T.S.	587 2300
Taxi Serv. Aruba	583 3232
A1 Taxi Serv.	280 2828

TRAVEL INFO

Aruba Airport	524 2424
American Airlines	582 2700
Avianca	588 0059
Aruba Airlines	583 8300
Jet Blue	588 2244
Surinam	582 7896
Venezolana	583 7674

CRUISES



January 7
 Carnival Sunshine
 Norwegian Gem

AID FOUNDATIONS

FAVI- Visually Incapacitated
 Tel. 582 5051

Alcoholics Anonymous
 Tel. 736 2952

Narcotics Anonymous
 Tel. 583 8989

Women in Difficulties
 Tel. 583 5400

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 Tel. 524 8888

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Detecting depression: Phone apps could monitor teen angst

By **LINDSEY TANNER**
AP Medical Writer

Rising suicide rates and depression in U.S. teens and young adults have prompted researchers to ask a provocative question: Could the same devices that some people blame for contributing to tech-age angst also be used to detect it?

The idea has sparked a race to develop apps that warn of impending mental health crises. Call it smartphone psychiatry or child psychology 2.0.

Studies have linked heavy smartphone use with worsening teen mental health. But as teens scroll through Instagram and Snapchat, tap out texts or watch YouTube videos, they also leave digital footprints that might offer clues to their psychological well-being.

Changes in typing speed, voice tone, word choice and how often kids stay home could signal trouble, according to preliminary studies.

There might be as many as 1,000 smartphone “biomarkers” for depression, said Dr. Thomas Insel, former head of the National Institute of Mental Health and now a leader in the smartphone psychiatry movement.

Researchers are testing experimental apps that use artificial intelligence to try to predict depression episodes or potential self-harm. “We are tracking the equivalent of a heartbeat for the human brain,” said Dr. Alex Leow, an app developer and associate professor of psychiatry and bioengineering at the University of Illinois’ Chicago campus. At least, that’s the goal. There are technical and ethical kinks to work



In this Nov. 1, 2018 photo, Laurel Foster looks at Instagram in San Francisco.

out — including privacy issues and making sure kids grant permission to be monitored so closely. Developers say proven, commercially available mood-detecting apps are likely years — but not decades — away.

“People often feel that these things are creepy,” because of the tech industry’s surreptitious tracking of online habits for commercial purposes, said University of Oregon psychologist Nick Allen.

Using smartphones as mental illness detectors would require informed consent from users to install an app, “and they could withdraw permission at any time,” said Allen, one of the creators of an app that is being tested on young people who have attempted suicide.

“The biggest hurdle at the moment,” Allen said, “is to learn about what’s the sig-

nal and what’s the noise — what is in this enormous amount of data that people accumulate on their phones that is indicative of a mental health crisis.”

Depression affects about 3 million U.S. teens, and rates have climbed in the past decade. Thirteen percent of 12- to 17-year-olds had depression in 2017, up from 8 percent in 2010, U.S. government data show. One in 10 college-aged Americans is affected.

Suicide has risen to the second leading cause of death for ages 10 to 34. Rates among teen girls doubled from 2007 to 2015, climbing to 5 per 100,000. And among boys, rates jumped 30 percent, to 14 in 100,000.

A recent study suggested a parallel rise in smartphone use likely contributed.

People with mental illness typically get treatment “when they’re in crisis and very late in the course of an illness. We want to have a method to identify the earliest signs,” in an objective way, Insel said.

If smartphones prove to be accurate mood predictors, developers say the ultimate goal would be to use them to offer real-time help, perhaps with automated text messages and

links to help lines, or digital alerts to parents, doctors or first responders.

Facebook is already doing just that with what it calls “proactive detection.” After a livestreamed suicide, Facebook trained its AI systems to flag certain words or phrases in online posts that could indicate imminent self-harm. Friends’ comments expressing concern about the user’s well-being are part of the equation. “In the last year, we’ve helped first responders quickly reach around 3,500 people globally who needed help,” Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg announced in November. Facebook has not disclosed outcomes of those cases.

The ongoing research includes:

— A Stanford University study involving about 200 teens, including kids at risk for depression because of bullying, family circumstances or other life stresses. As part of the research, teens who have been tracked since grade school get an experimental phone app that surveys them three times daily for two weeks with questions about their mood.

Researchers are combining those answers with passive

smartphone data, including how active or sedentary kids are, to identify any changes that might be linked with future depression. Study participant Laurel Foster, 15, acknowledges feeling stress over academics and “the usual” teen friendship pressures and says depression is rampant at her San Francisco high school. She said using the smartphone app felt a bit like being spied on, but with so many online sites already tracking users’ habits “one more isn’t really a big difference.”

“I feel like it’s good to actually find out what is stressing you,” Laurel said, endorsing the idea of using smartphones to try to answer that question.

— At UCLA, as part of a broader effort to battle campus depression launched in 2017, researchers are offering online counseling and an experimental phone app to students who show signs of at least mild depression on a screening test. About 250 freshmen agreed to use the app in the first year. Personal sensing data collected from the app is being analyzed to see how it correlates with any worsening or improvement in depression symptoms seen in internet therapy.

Sophomore Alyssa Lizarraga, who had the app on her phone for about six months, said it was “a little like the Big Brother thing. Half of me felt that way. The other half felt like I hope it will be useful.”

Lizarraga, 19, has had depression since high school in Whittier, California. She has worried that she’s “addicted” to her phone and spends a lot of time on social media sites. “People need to see the best side of me” there, she said, and comparing herself with others online sometimes gets her down. But using smartphones in a positive way for mental health might help nudge people to seek early treatment, if they could see how their phone use showed signs of depression, she said. □

Anderson Cooper honored at Sean Penn's star-studded benefit

By JONATHAN LANDRUM Jr.
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — When Anderson Cooper first met Sean Penn after the 2010 earthquake in Haiti, the CNN anchor was initially skeptical of the actor's intentions to help the recovery efforts in the ravaged country. "I'm not sure how Sean got to Port-au-Prince, Haiti. It certainly was not easy. I'm not sure how much of a plan he had when he got there. But he didn't just come by himself, he came with a team," Cooper said Saturday night in front of a star-studded crowd at Penn's ninth annual benefit for the J/P Haitian Relief Organization. The fundraiser raised \$3.5 million at the Wiltern Theater in Los Angeles. Some individual plates cost \$10,000 at most, while tables ranged up to \$100,000. Even though Cooper was being honored, he heaped praise on Penn and his nonprofit.

"Sean came with supplies, he stayed long after most of us had moved on," Cooper added. "Sean stayed,



Anderson Cooper arrives at the 2019 Sean Penn J/P HRO & Disaster Relief Organizations Gala at The Wiltern Theatre on Saturday, Jan. 5, 2019, in Los Angeles.

listened and he learned. JP HRO became an organization born of disaster, but which is focused on addressing the poverty that existed there for far too long."

Julia Roberts paid homage to Cooper before presenting him with the award. She said he showed bravery as a journalist in matters of crisis, as the event focused on his efforts after the earthquake left thousands of Haitians homeless and without basic resources almost a decade ago.

Associated Press

"His work was just not limited in journalism," Roberts said. "In Haiti, he was a humanitarian and often first responder, a pioneer in a time of extreme uncertainty. Anderson Cooper is a

good man, a brave man. He gives an honest portrayal." Penn followed suit acknowledging Cooper's "aggressiveness to tell the truth in reporting the news." The actor has hosted the fundraiser for J/P HRO on the eve of the Golden Globes since he established the charity in 2010. During Saturday's event, Penn unveiled the name change of his Haitian Relief Organization to the Community Organized Relief Effort (CORE) in an effort to rebrand his nonprofit. He wants his charity to expand its efforts from Haiti to more areas in the United States. Penn said he wants to strengthen communities in crisis by helping them "recover swiftly in the face of emergency." In a video, he

showed volunteers helping repair some damage to homes in Savannah, Georgia, after the powerful Hurricane Florence thrashed the coastal area last year. Larry David, Casey Affleck, Sarah Silverman, Jimmy Kimmel, Ben Stiller and Garcelle Beauvais were among the guests at the gala dinner. Musical performances were by Macy Gray, Billie Eilish and Linda Perry. The event honored San Juan Mayor Carmen Yulin Cruz and ambassador Kenneth Merfen. The Point Dume Bombers, who stayed up all night to help save their Malibu neighborhood from the fast-moving wildfires that scorched the area displacing thousands from their California homes, were also recognized. □

Ariana Grande, Childish Gambino among Coachella headliners

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The organizers of the 2019 Coachella Valley Music and Arts Festival have announced the top acts scheduled to appear at the multiday event in April. Goldenvoice, the promoter of the event, said Wednesday night that the big names scheduled to perform at the two-weekend festival in Southern California from April 12 to April 14 and from April 19 to April 21 include Ariana Grande, Childish Gambino, Tame Impala and Janelle Monae. Other performers booked to play at the event include the 1975, DJ Snake, Diplo, Solange and Weezer. In 2018, Grande capped off a successful year as a pop star that included



In this Thursday, Dec. 6, 2018 file photo, Ariana Grande attends the 13th annual Billboard Women in Music event at Pier 36, in New York.

Associated Press

another No. 1 album with "Sweetener" as well as multiple hits, from "No Tears Left to Cry" to "God Is a Woman" to "Breathin." Coachella is known as the festival for cool kids — and musicians. Tickets go on sale on Friday. □

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Nicole Kidman as a hardened LA cop in 'Destroyer'

By **JAKE COYLE**
Associated Press

A different Nicole Kidman stares out at us under the harsh Los Angeles sun of the neo-noir "Destroyer."

The actress who famously donned a prosthetic nose for "The Hours" has here gone to greater and grittier lengths of transformation. Her eyes are sunken. Her skin is hardened. Her stare is provocatively hollow. She looks dead inside — nearly so on the outside, too.

Such metamorphoses have long been standbys of Oscar seasons both past (Charlize Theron in "Monster") and present (Christian Bale in "Vice"). "Nearly" unrecognizable is the goal, not actually disappearing. The point isn't to forget who you're watch-



This image released by Annapurna Pictures shows Nicole Kidman in a scene from "Destroyer."

Associated Press

ing, it's to impress upon you the masterful changeability of the actor beneath all the makeup and wig.

Karyn Kusama's "Destroyer" presses a little too much, in both Kidman's showily chameleonic performance and in the relentlessly grim and fragmented tale of a hardboiled L.A. detective haunted by a trauma

from her past. But while "Destroyer" can be overwrought and mechanical, it's an often gripping, well-crafted crime drama with distinction of its own in the genre, an almost always male-dominated one.

We meet Det. Erin Bell (Kidman) as she stumbles to a crime scene, covering at the morning sun. The other

detectives, familiar with her hard-drinking apathy, don't take her seriously. Looking over the dead body, she sees a dyed \$100 bill that triggers a memory, one that for Bell never receded into the past, anyway. She knows who did it, she says in a hoarse, rasping voice. Silas is back, she later tells a confidant.

Taking up what seems to be her first case in years, Bell embarks on a quest for the Silas in question, a ruthless gang leader (Toby Kebbell) whom Bell became close to 16 years earlier in an undercover operation with her partner-turned-boyfriend Chris (a first-rate Sebastian Stan). The job ended tragically, we can tell, but the full story will only be pieced together throughout "Destroyer," which toggles between the two timelines.

The schematic frame of "Destroyer," penned by Phil Hay and Matt Manfredi, is equal parts frustrating and illuminating. The flashbacks, in which Kidman appears more resplendently herself, gradually explain how Bell came to be such

an empty shell of a woman, estranged from her teenage daughter Shelby (Jade Pettyjohn). In a series of encounters across a sun-baked and sinister Los Angeles, she draws ominously closer to both Silas and her past.

It's been a while since we've had a Los Angeles on screen like this one. Gone is the rainbow-colored playground of "La La Land," back is the underbelly Michael Mann so memorably trafficked in. For noir-heads like myself, that feels good. Kusama ("The Invitation") has a muscular grip on the locale and the material, including a handful of riveting set pieces.

Those scenes and others gain something by being staged from the perspective of the film's antihero protagonist. Bell is an unapologetically corrupt detective who thinks little of tampering with evidence or, to secure a desperately needed tip, sinking much lower. Her pursuit of Silas isn't motivated by justice but by vengeance and soul-destroying guilt. □

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<p style="font-size: x-small; writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">NEW THIS WEEK</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">DEBORAH ANN WOLL TAYLOR RUSSELL</p> <h3 style="text-align: center;">ESCAPE ROOM</h3> <p style="font-size: x-small;">WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES MON-THU & SUN 2:40 4:55 7:10 9:25 FRISAT 2:40 4:55 7:10 9:25 11:40</p>	<p style="font-size: x-small;">EMILY BLUNT LIN-MANUEL MIRANDA</p> <h3 style="text-align: center;">Disney MARY POPPINS RETURNS</h3> <p style="font-size: x-small;">WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES MON-SUN 12:50 3:30 6:10 8:50</p>
<p style="font-size: x-small;">CLINT EASTWOOD BRADLEY COOPER</p> <h3 style="text-align: center;">THE MULE</h3> <p style="font-size: x-small;">WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES MON-THU & SUN 4:10 6:40 9:10 FRISAT 4:10 6:40 9:10 11:40</p>	<p style="font-size: x-small;">FELICITY JONES ARMIE HAMMER</p> <h3 style="text-align: center;">ON THE BASIS OF SEX</h3> <p style="font-size: x-small;">MON-SUN 9:15</p>
<p style="font-size: x-small;">HAILEE STEINFELD DYLAN O'BRIEN</p> <h3 style="text-align: center;">BUMBLEBEE</h3> <p style="font-size: x-small;">WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES MON-SUN 3:00 5:25 MON-THU & SUN 1:00 4:00 6:00 9:00 FRISAT 1:50 4:20 6:30 9:30 11:50</p>	<p style="font-size: x-small;">JAKE JOHNSON HAILEE STEINFELD</p> <h3 style="text-align: center;">SPIDER-MAN</h3> <p style="font-size: x-small;">WITH THE SPIDER-VERSE WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES GOLDEN GLOBE NOMINATION MON-SUN 2:15</p>
<p style="font-size: x-small;">JENNIFER LOPEZ MILO VENTIMIGLIA</p> <h3 style="text-align: center;">SECOND ACT</h3> <p style="font-size: x-small;">MON-SUN 4:45 7:00</p>	<p style="font-size: x-small;">JOHN C. REILLY SARAH SILVERMAN</p> <h3 style="text-align: center;">Disney RALPH BREAKS THE INTERNET</h3> <p style="font-size: x-small;">WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES GOLDEN GLOBE NOMINATION MON-SUN 1:45</p>
<p style="font-size: x-small;">JASON MOMOA AMBER HEARD</p> <h3 style="text-align: center;">AQUAMAN</h3> <p style="font-size: x-small;">WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES MON-THU & SUN 7:50 FRISAT 7:50 10:45 CXC MON-SUN 3:15 6:10 9:05 MON-THU & SUN 2:40 5:35 8:30 FRISAT 2:40 5:35 8:30 11:25</p>	
<p style="font-size: x-small;">BENEDICT CUMBERBATCH CAMERON SEELY</p> <h3 style="text-align: center;">The GRINCH</h3> <p style="font-size: x-small;">WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES MON-SUN 1:00</p>	

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Gaga, 'A Star Is Born' poised to dominate Golden Globes

By JAKE COYLE
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP)— When the 76th annual Golden Globe Awards get underway Sunday night, who takes home statuettes is only a small part of the intrigue.

What the Hollywood Foreign Press Association's Beverly Hills, California, ceremony lacks in gravitas it usually makes up for in freewheeling frivolity and fun. The free-flowing booze helps.

This year's show, which will be broadcast live Sunday on NBC at 8 p.m. EST following an hour of red-carpet pre-show coverage, likely has awards in store for Bradley Cooper's Oscar front-runner "A Star Is Born," Yorgos Lanthimos' period romp "The Favourite," the Amazon comedy series "The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel" and Ryan Murphy's anthology series "The Assassination of Gianni Versace: American Crime Story."



In this Jan. 20, 2016 file photo, Lady Gaga poses in the press room with the award for best performance by an actress in a limited series or a motion picture made for TV for "American Horror Story: Hotel" at the 73rd annual Golden Globe Awards at the Beverly Hilton Hotel in Beverly Hills, Calif.

Associated Press

Lady Gaga is poised to win not just one but two awards, for best actress in a drama and for the song "Shallow," from "A Star Is Born." (Gaga, who won a Globe in 2016 for her "American Horror Story: Hotel" performance, would still fall short of the three Globes won by Barbra Streisand for the 1976 version of "A Star Is

Born.") But the ceremony might hinge most on just what kind of party the Globes can muster this year. Last year's ceremony, atypically serious for the Globes, was the first major awards show after the birth of the #MeToo movement following the Harvey Weinstein revelations. Female attend-

ees wore black in solidarity. Presenter Natalie Portman pointedly introduced the "all male" directing nominees.

How much these subjects will be discussed in the broadcast, to be hosted by the unexpected pairing of Andy Samberg and Sandra Oh, is unknown. Samberg and Oh have said they're hoping to set a lively and carefree tone. Oh, the star of the BBC America drama series "Killing Eve," is also a nominee.

Last year's show, like a lot of recent awards shows, saw ratings decline. Some 19 million tuned in to the Seth Meyers-hosted broadcast, an 11-percent decline in viewership.

This year, NBC has one thing in its favor: an NFL lead in. Ahead of the Globes, NBC is broadcasting the late afternoon Wild Card game between the Chicago Bears and the Philadelphia Eagles.

The array of nominees that have been sizable box office hits may potentially help the Globes, none more than Ryan Coogler's "Black Panther," up for best picture (drama) and score. "A Star is Born," which is expected to dominate the drama side of the movie awards, recently passed \$200 million in domestic ticket sales.

Adam McKay's highly critical Dick Cheney portrait "Vice," starring Christian Bale, comes in with a leading six nominations. While music-heavy films "A Star Is Born" and "Bohemian Rhapsody" opted to contend in the Globes' drama categories, "Vice" tops the comedy-musical nominees, though it's closely trailed by multiple nominees, including "The Favourite" and "Green Book," Peter Farrelly's interracial road trip tale starring Viggo Mortensen and Mahershala Ali. □

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